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22 PAGES 150 FILS

Turkey, Bulgaria relations warming

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Turkish-Bulgarian talks in Kuwait have paved the way for normalisation of ties between the two countries, according to diplomatic sources.

There is a distinct possibility that Turkish-Bulgarian ties, frozen since 1984, may return to normal and both countries are "looking forward to reactivating co-operation in all spheres," sources said.

The status of ethnic Turkish Muslims in Bulgaria has been the barometer of ties between the two countries. Now that Bulgaria has shown a "political will" to make amends, and has granted basic human rights to the ethnic Turks, there seems to be optimism about improving future relations at next month's Open Skies Conference in Ottawa from Feb 12 to 15. Both sides are expected to continue the dialogue in Ankara at a future date at a joint-committee meeting.

The second-round of one-day talks between the two countries were held in a "cordial atmosphere." Although diplomats feel that the ethnic Turk issue cannot be "resolved" in a day, or at a couple of meetings, they said that they were optimistic due to the "positive and constructive" outcome of the talks in Kuwait.

Turkey and Bulgaria, in a joint-communique read at the conclusion of yesterday's meeting, have agreed to build further talks "to make a thorough assessment" and improve relations on "sound and mutually beneficial basis."

Agencies add: Bulgaria has suggested to Turkey that they make a joint declaration on human rights to overcome years of acrimony over the treatment of Bulgaria's Turkish minority. Turkey has not committed itself to the idea but, following the downfall of Bulgaria's hardline communist leadership, says Ankara and Sofia are finally speaking the same language on the ethnic issue.

"What I proposed was ... to establish a really new departure. We want to turn a page between Bulgaria and Turkey," Bulgarian Foreign Minister Borko Dimitrov told a news conference.

A special parliamentary panel is investigating whether ousted communist leader Todor Zhivkov illegally stashed state funds in Swiss bank accounts.

Quayle praises China decision

WASHINGTON, Jan 10. (Reuter): Vice President Dan Quayle said today that China's decision to lift martial law was a step forward for human rights and showed the wisdom of President George Bush's controversial policy of maintaining high-level contacts with Beijing.

"We view China's decision to lift martial law as a step forward. I believe that you are beginning to see dividends from the president's policy towards China," Quayle told reporters.

(Earlier report Page 6)

\$500m arms deal

Kuwait, Egypt to set up holding company

KUWAIT, Jan 10. (Agencies): A press report said here today that Kuwait will purchase an arms package worth \$500 million from Egypt during the visit of His Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. Kuwait and Egypt have also agreed to set up a \$500 million holding investment company.

The Kuwaiti daily said the package will include two "Arrow" type defence systems, 63-TPS radar system, armoured vehicles equipped with MD-2 and Milan bombers and Swingfire missiles.

The package will be thoroughly discussed during talks between the Kuwaiti delegation headed by Sheikh Saad and Egyptian officials led by the head of the Arab Industries Authority Ibrahim Al Orabi, said the paper quoting unidentified Egyptian military sources.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Abdellaziz Al Kandari told another local newspaper that Kuwait will not participate in financing projects in the field of arms with Egypt.

He noted, however, that Kuwait prefers to purchase Egyptian-made arms and urged other Arab states to use Egyptian arms which have proved their fighting efficiency.

Egypt and Kuwait have agreed to set up a \$500 million

holding company which will control joint investment, Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sodeki said.

Sodeki quoted by Egyptian newspapers today, said after talks with Sheikh Saad, Kuwait also agreed to take part in planned reclamation of 400,000 acres (162,000 hectares) of holding investment company.

The Egyptian prime minister was quoted as saying Kuwait would contribute \$200 million for the farming scheme, estimated to cost a billion pounds (\$380 million). No other details were immediately available.

Kuwait and Egypt have signed an agreement for bilateral co-operation in judicial fields.

The agreement was signed by Kuwait's Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhani Abdalla Al Otrman and his Egyptian counterpart Farouq Saif Al Nasr.

The agreement provides for mutual extradition of persons convicted with freedom-restricting punishments so as to be rehabilitated in their home countries out of the keenness of humanitarian reasons.

Sheikh Saad, on the third day of his visit to Egypt, today visited military plants of Abu Zaabal, near Cairo.

At the Menya plant Sheikh Saad was briefed by Egyptian State Minister of War Industries Jamal Al Sayyed.



Sheikh Saad visiting the Panorama of October 6 war.



The Crown Prince cutting a cake during his visit to the Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo.



Clock calls Muslims for prayer

Algerian Abderrazak Taleb of Wattrelos, northern France, kneels in prayer behind his invention, a clock which calls the Muslim faithful to prayers five times a day. A replica of the Omar Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem, the clock is programmed by entering the longitude and latitude of the city, allowing Muslims to pray simultaneously with those in Holy Makkah. (Reuter wirephoto)

Official sources said scores of residents, most of them women, defied the curfew in Srinagar's Shab-e-Garj locality and gathered in a street to hurl rocks and anti-India incitements at security personnel.

Armed militants in the crowd then opened fire at a paramilitary patrol, sparking a gunbattle. The so-called a civilian and a member of the paramilitary central reserve police force were killed in the brief firefight.

There were no immediate reports of new violence in any of the seven other towns in which curfews were in force.

The predominantly Muslim Kashmir region of the state is embroiled in an escalating campaign of protests, killings and bombings by underground extremist groups demanding secession from India. Some groups advocate union with the neighbouring Islamic republic of Pakistan, while others are calling for complete independence.

Scores of people have died since the agitation began about two years ago.

Army units moved into four Kashmir towns yesterday to try to halt Muslim separatist violence, police and witnesses said.

Chief Secretary Moosa Raza, the state's top civil servant, said a suspect attached to the intelligence wing of the police was shot and killed by Muslim militants in Burewala, west of Srinagar. Another policeman was killed in neighbouring Rawalpora.

In Banipur, 45 kilometres (28 miles) north of Srinagar, demonstrators set two government buildings on fire, he said.

Witnesses reached by telephone said two people were killed and several injured when police opened fire in Srinagar to disperse several hundred demonstrators.

Army units moved into the towns of Srinagar, Sopore, Anantnag and Banipora, officials and witnesses said.

A powerful bomb planted by Sikh separatists exploded in the office of a senior Hindu police officer in Punjab today, killing him and three others on the spot, police said.

The bomb had a timing device and was hidden in a wooden foot rest below the desk of senior superintendent of police Govind Ram, they said.

The blast occurred at Jalandhar, southeast of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Jalandhar superintendent of police Surjeet Arora said the blast killed Ram and three other policemen. At least 20 other people, mostly policemen, were injured. (See Page 2)

President of Xerox France shot in hostage-taking

PARIS, Jan 10. (Agencies): A disgruntled former employee shot and critically wounded the head of Rank Xerox France yesterday after holding him and four other employees hostage at gunpoint for several hours, police said.

Oliver Groues, managing director of Xerox's French subsidiary, was reported in critical condition late yesterday after the other hostages were released unharmed and Daniel Vieille, a former sales employee, was taken into custody, police said.

Michelle Requin, substituting public prosecutor for Nanterre, said Vieille, 45, demanding restitution for his dismissal eight days ago, held the employees hostage with a sawed-off automatic hunting rifle.

Pakistan warned over Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 10. (Agencies): India issued a warning today to Pakistan over its alleged support for pro-secession Muslims in strife-torn Kashmir, where at least two people died during a shootout between security forces and militants, official sources said.

The deaths brought to at least 19 the number of fatalities since the latest round of violent anti-India protests erupted on Monday in towns around the Kashmir region, over which both India and Pakistan claim sovereignty.

Troops and paramilitary and local police ordered to shoot rioters on sight enforced curfews in at least eight towns today, permitting a four-hour respite only in one area of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi.

Official sources said scores of residents, most of them women, defied the curfew in Srinagar's Shab-e-Garj locality and gathered in a street to hurl rocks and anti-India incitements at security personnel.

Armed militants in the crowd then opened fire at a paramilitary patrol, sparking a gunbattle.

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Jalandhar superintendent of police Surjeet Arora said the blast killed Ram and three other policemen. At least 20 other people, mostly policemen, were injured. (See Page 2)

Vieille, who was dismissed "for serious cause" from Rank Xerox, "had a real fixation against the company, blaming it for his divorce and his debts," said Requin.

Vieille, brandishing a gun, took the employees hostage after entering the top-floor executive suite of the company's headquarters in La Defense business district in Puteaux on the western outskirts of Paris at about noon, officials said.

Witnesses told police that Vieille burst into the office of personnel director Bernard Reibell, forced him at gunpoint Groues' office and held the two men and three female employees hostage in two adjoining offices on the top floor of the 19-storey building.

Soviets to host Iraq-Iran talks

Tehran gives go-ahead

MOSCOW, Jan 10. (Reuter): Iran has given the go-ahead to resume stymied peace settlement talks with Iraq, and this time they will be mediated and hosted by the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to Moscow saying Iran was willing to resume the talks, which stalled this April in Geneva, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said.

Iraq had already agreed to the Soviet proposal for trilateral talks, so "now it is possible to start the practical working-out of this question," Gerasimov told a Moscow briefing.

He said he had no details on when and where the talks would be held.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, during an official visit to Iran in August, had offered the Soviet Union's help in mediating the deadlocked talks.

Armed militants in the crowd then opened fire at a paramilitary patrol, sparking a gunbattle.

The Soviets have leverage with Baghdad as Iraq's main arms supplier in the Gulf war, and Iraq and the Soviet Union are bound by a treaty of friendship and co-operation.

Tehran also has signed big gas deals with Moscow along with other trade agreements, reversing years of bad relations with the Soviet Union when it had been grouped with America as a "great satan."

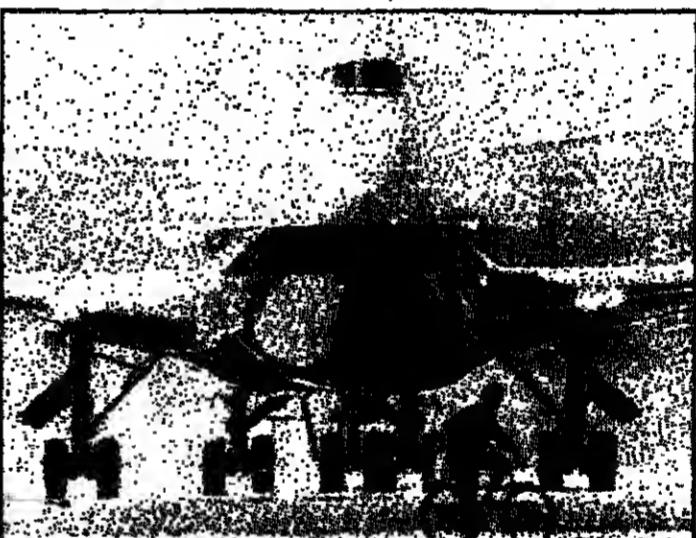
No progress was reported at the last round of direct negotiations between Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, held in Geneva in April.

UN-sponsored Iran-Iraq talks began just five days after a ceasefire took effect on Aug 20, 1988, but have remained deadlocked despite several rounds of negotiations.

The plane was forced to divert to Karachi on Wednesday because of a bomb threat it resumed its scheduled journey to New Delhi after an 11-hour delay when searchers found nothing.

"The plane and its cargo was thoroughly searched but no bomb was found," a spokesman for the Indian Consulate in Karachi said.

The Boeing 747 carrying 281 passengers and crew on a flight from Frankfurt to New Delhi and Bombay changed course after Indian officials in New Delhi told Pakistani air controllers they had received a bomb threat. Pictures show an airport worker cycles in front of a Boeing 747 as the plane taxies on the tarmac at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport. (Reuter wirephoto)



AI bomb threat

Moscow upgrades PLO ties

MOSCOW, Jan 10. (Reuter): The Kremlin announced today it would allow the PLO to upgrade its Moscow representation to an embassy, within hours of a meeting between Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Moscow had "given its consent to the reorganisation of the mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Moscow as the embassy of the State of Palestine in the Soviet Union."

In return, the Soviet Union planned to appoint its ambassador to the PLO's effective government-in-exile, the Tunis-based Executive Committee, said the statement, carried by the official news agency Tass.

The decision was announced by the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov at a meeting today with the Arab ambassadors.

The move had been widely expected since November 1988 when the Soviet Union recognised the PLO proclamation of a Palestine state without specifying whether this amounted to full diplomatic recognition.

No reason was given for the precise timing of the announcement, but analysts suggested it was linked with today's meeting, believed to be the first high-level contact in the Soviet Union since Moscow severed ties with Israel in 1967.

Weather

COLD weather with moderate north-westerly wind may freshen at times. State of戒: Moderate to rough. High water: 10.30 am, 1.11 pm. Low water: 6.33 am, 6.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.44 am. Sunset: 5.08 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 3°C 57°F. Ahmadi: 13°C 55°F. Falaka: 16°C 61°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: -3°C 37°F. Ahmadi: 6°C 43°F. Falaka: 5°C 41°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 14°C 57°F. Ahmadi: 12°C 54°F. Falaka: 13°C 55°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 73 per cent. Ahmadi: 63 per cent. Falaka: 53 per cent.

Iran minister discusses Azerbaijan with Shevardnadze

NICOSIA, Jan 10. (Reuter): Iran told the Soviet Union yesterday it was ready to facilitate visits by Soviet Muslims in Azerbaijan who have been demanding greater access to the Islamic republic.

The official news agency Iran said Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow and "announced the Islamic republic's readiness to facilitate cross border contacts with Soviet Muslims."

Vaezi said the visit by an Iranian consular delegation to

Baku, capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, was proof of Tehran's intentions.

Iran said earlier the delegation was in Baku to discuss tourist visits between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Local journalists in Azerbaijan told Reuters in Moscow leaders of the southern republic had agreed to allow free movement for ethnic Azeris on either side of the border.

Iranian television screened yesterday film of a peaceful gathering by hundreds of Azeris on the Soviet bank of the Araks border river on Sunday.

ARAB TIMES

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Marcos aides charged with rebellion

MANILA, Jan 10. (UPI): Two former aides to late leader Ferdinand Marcos and three other people were charged with rebellion today in connection with last month's coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, officials said.

Rafael Recto, Marcos' attorney, and Marcos press officer Lito Goro were among five people accused of rebellion before the justice department, senior prosecutor Aurelio Trunpe said. The others were air force Col. Eduardo (Red) Kapunan, busi-

nessman Jack Rodriguez and newspaper columnist Cecilio Arillo.

The charges filed by the National Bureau of Investigation named six witnesses who saw the five at the suburban government television network on Dec. 1, the first day of the coup attempt. Trunpe said.

Kapunan led in the takeover of the television station at the start of the weeklong uprising, but was

unable to use the facilities after employees removed vital equipment, rendering the network inoperative.

Network manager Dodie Limacaoco earlier said Recto and Goro were carrying tapes apparently containing rebel statements that were never used.

Trunpe said at least 53 civilians have been charged with rebellion in connection with the uprising that left 119 people dead and more than 500 wounded. The coup attempt was the sixth and most

serious against Aquino.

Among those who have been charged were opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and the Senate's military consultant, retired Brig. Gen. Felix Browner.

An aide said Recto has not received a copy of the charges, which carry a penalty ranging from six months to 12 years imprisonment. However, Recto has denied involvement in the rebellion.

Sikh bomb kills top cop

CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 10. (Reuters): A bomb killed Punjab's most controversial police officer today, hours before Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh was due to arrive in the state on a mission to end Sikh separatist violence.

Commandant Gobind Ram and at least three other policemen were blown up by a bomb planted in his own office in a heavily-guarded Punjab police complex at Jallandhar.

"He (Ram) was very high on the hit-list of the Sikh extremists and we can only guess," a senior police source said when asked who was suspected of planting the bomb.

Sikh organisations, human rights groups and Indian politicians had accused Ram of torturing people held for interrogation over the campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab.

Rally
The blast devastated a single-story building at the police complex at Jallandhar, 20 km (12 miles) from Ludhiana where Singh and other leaders of India's main political parties are due to address a peace rally on Thursday.

Ram, who was 44, was a Hindu excluded from his religion's caste hierarchy as a Harijan or untouchable.

He was shifted to the high-security complex at Jallandhar last September after protests by Sikhs.

Surjeet Singh Barnala, a former chief minister of the state, told Reuters the complex "was considered by far the safest place in Punjab."

Torture
Ram was moved there after followers of a Sikh high priest threatened to surround his office in the Batala area, accusing his men of torturing two women, including a sister-in-law of the chief of the Babbar Khalsa.

The Babbar Khalsa is one of several extremist groups waging an eight-year-old campaign for a Sikh homeland they want to call Khalistan, land of the pure.

Police have blamed Babbar Khalsa for several previous bomb attacks on targeted individuals.

V.P. Singh, whose National Front ousted Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party from government in general elections last November, has given priority to ending the separatist violence. More than 2,000 people were killed in Punjab in 1989 alone.

Charges
The Ludhiana rally is his second attempt to win over more moderate Sikhs in Punjab, India's most prosperous agricultural state strategically located on the border with Pakistan.

A senior Punjab state government official told Reuters today that charges had been dropped against 1,500 people who had been detained during a three-year crackdown on the separatists on charges such as harbouring militants.

He said this left about 1,400 people detained in Punjab under anti-terror laws and another 3,000 released on bail and still facing charges.

But Punjab's most important Sikh political leader, Simranjit Singh Mann, has said he will not attend Thursday's rally because of the presence of Congress leaders.

India to ditch ambassadors

NEW DELHI, Jan 10. (KUNA): The National Front government plans to transfer a number of heads of diplomatic missions abroad and also replace ambassadors of India in the United States and Britain, it was reported today.

Dr Karan Singh, India's ambassador to Washington, and M.K. Rastogi, High Commissioner to London, are likely to be replaced soon. They have been discreetly advised to end their resignation.

Dr Karan Singh has served as minister in the late Indira Gandhi cabinet.



Two Lithuanian girls carry a banner which asks for the freedom of Lithuania during a demonstration in central Vilnius. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lithuanians prepare for Gorby

Cry freedom

VILNIUS, USSR, Jan 10. (AP): Thousands of barkers of Lithuanian independence cried "freedom" at a rally in Cathedral Square today, rehearsing their greeting for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the eve of his visit.

Banners displayed among about 20,000 activists who rallied in the centre of Vilnius ranged from one polite welcome to more blunt calls for Gorbachev to go home — and take the Soviet Army with him.

"We didn't join the Soviet Union, you grabbed us," read one banner, referring to the Soviet Union's absorption of the Baltic republic in 1940.

Gorbachev is expected to arrive tomorrow for three days of meetings with factory workers, collective farmers, ethnic minorities and Communist Party activists in a bid to reverse the Lithuanian Communists' Party's decision last month to split from the national party and support independence for the republic.

The Soviet leader will risk his personal prestige in the attempt to cool one of Lithuania's most serious ethnic crises.

He has consistently and sharply criticized Lithuanian communist leaders for the move for independence, and convened an emergency session of the national party central committee last month to discuss the issue.

But leaders of Sajudis, the Lithuanian People's Front Political Movement, hope to draw one million people to Vilnius, the capital, tomorrow to show Gorbachev the extent of support for independence.

The Soviet leader is treating the Communist Party split as a critical setback in his reform programme. He sent a crew of top-level national party officials led by Kremlin ideolog chief Yevgeny A. Medvedev to lobby party members in preparation for his visit.

Gorbachev last visited one of the Baltic republics in February 1987, when he traveled to Riga, Latvia. Estonia was the third republic absorbed by the Soviet Union in a secret pact with Nazi Germany.

The quake also was felt in India's far northeastern states, Assam, Nagaland and Bangladesh, Indian news agencies reported.

However, Bangladeshi officials said there were no reports of serious damage from the quake which also was felt in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

The quake also was felt in India's far northeastern states, Assam, Nagaland and Bangladesh, Indian news agencies reported.

United News of India said electricity was disrupted in Agartala, capital of Tripura state, which is wedged between Bangladesh and Burma.

Press Trust of India said people rushed out of doors in the neighbouring state of Assam when they were awakened by rattling doors and windows.

Neither news agency reported serious damage.

The seismology office at the Indian government's department of meteorology in New Delhi said the quake occurred at 12:22 am Wednesday (1855 GMT Tuesday).

The epicentre of the quake was near the border of Burma and the Indian state of Manipur, according to a seismologist staff member who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Quake jolts northeast India, Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, Jan 10. (AP): An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale shook northeastern India and Bangladesh early today, but there were no immediate reports of major damage.

In Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, four students were injured when they jumped from the third-floor of their dormitory at Dhaka University, Professor Nuruddin Ahmed said.

However, Bangladeshi officials said there were no reports of serious damage from the quake which also was felt in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

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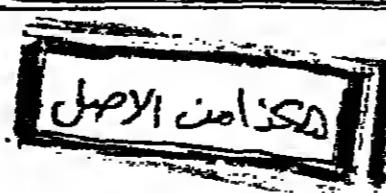
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Reviving Champs Elysees

PARIS, Jan 10. (Reuters): The city of Paris today announced a plan to revive the Champs Elysees, the sizzling symbol of elegance and prestige dear to French hearts.

People tell us the Champs Elysees is possibly the world's most beautiful place," said Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac. "It is deteriorating. We must safeguard and restore it."

Under a vast public works scheme still to be finalised, but expected to last up to five years, street hawkers are to be banned and pavements resurfaced and widened.

Surrounded by aristocratic carriages last century and still a hallmark of high Parisian fashion and refinement in the 1950s, the avenue running from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde now teems with rowdy teenagers and fast-food joints.

Shop-owners, who have been screaming for moves to boost the avenue's former up-market image, blame its fading grandeur on changing times but say a touch of the old elegance can survive.

Roland Perrotti di Borgo, the owner of two restaurants on the avenue and president of a Save-Les-Champs Committee, said the chaos began in the 1960s, when new commuter trains dumped tens of thousands of suburbs on the avenue.

"We have nothing against them, but with them come the trash, the dealers and street merchants bent on making a quick buck."

Owners of avenue shopkeepers welcomed Chirac's planned face-lift.

Benches, bins and bookstands are to be redesigned, lighting improved, the area named a protected site and a double row of plane trees planned along its 1.2 km (.75 miles) from Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe.

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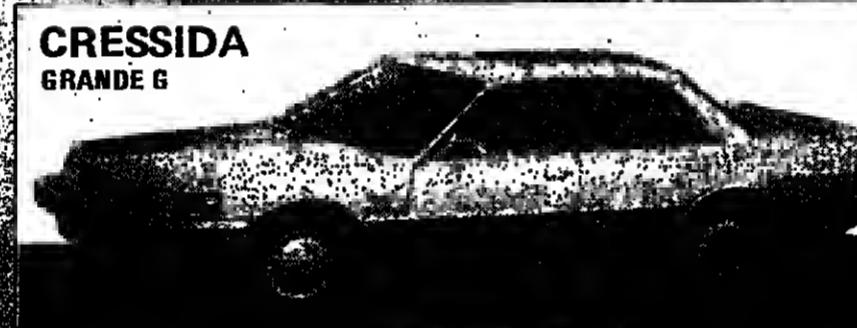
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TOYOTA

World News Roundup

After 70 years Mother and son united

PISTOIA, Italy, Jan 10, (Reuters): An Italian woman of 91 who gave up her son for adoption in 1916 was reunited with him yesterday after she discovered that he lived down the road.

"I wanted to find my son before I die," Assunta Rabuzzi, from the town of Lariano in central Italy, told reporters.

Rabuzzi, who has other children, had no news of her son Maggiolini since he was adopted at birth but found out after a long search that he lived less than 25 km away.

Maggiolini, 74, had a second surprise at yesterday's reunion. He recognised a man introduced as his brother because they had been in adjacent beds at a local hospital a few years ago.



Morris (right) enters the Federal Building in Syracuse for the first day of court. He is accused of creating a computer worm that crippled military and college computers linked to a nationwide network. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tampering trial

Computer worm source traced

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan 10, (UPI): A Cornell University computer expert said it took him four days to trace to its source the "worm" programme federal prosecutors contend a bright hacker used to "assault" a network of computers across the United States.

On the first day of the computer-tampering trial of Robert Morris Jr., expert witness Dean Kraft testified yesterday that found "a cryptic, compressed" version of the programme that controlled some 6,000 computers nationwide on Nov. 2, 1988.

Kraft, testifying before about 50 reporters and spectators in the federal courtroom, said he discovered the rogue programme planted by the former Cornell graduate student after four days of study and sifting through records.

The testimony by Kraft, director of the computer facilities at Cornell, seemed to bolster accusations federal prosecutor Mark Rasch made in opening statements that Morris launched a "full-scale assault" on military and research computer networks with a programme purposely made "hard to defeat."

The government is attempting to prove that Morris, 25, slowed operations of about 6,000 computers by planting a "worm" that infiltrated strategic computer networks.

"There was a full-scale assault on the computers throughout the United States launched by the defendant. This was a deliberate effort," Rasch said.

Defense attorney Thomas Guidoboni said he would show the "worm" was merely an experiment gone awry.

America

King day to be marked: Bells in 144 countries and all 50 US States will ring out Monday in honour Martin Luther King Jr. on what would have been the slain civil rights leader's 61st birthday.

For the first time, the day will be celebrated on a large scale in white-ruled South Africa, pro-democracy demonstrations around the world last year also have added impetus to the holiday by mirroring King's tactics and philosophy.

League seeks Marshall Plan: An urban Marshall Plan and investment bank is needed to close the economic gap between white and black citizens and to ensure the nation's competitiveness, a leading civil rights group said Tuesday in Washington.

The call came as the national urban league released its 15th annual report, "the state of black America."

Blackjack

Casinos don't shuffle enough

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 10, (AP): A new study indicates that casinos don't shuffle their cards enough to baffle blackjack experts, but players and officials in this casino city say don't bet on it.

When a deck is shuffled, it retains fragments of its previous configuration. That can be important in blackjack, a game which attracts card-counters — players with copious memories and the lightning-quick ability to calculate probabilities.

If a card-counter senses a pattern repeating itself, he'll make a huge wager. Blackjack has lower odds in favour of the house than most other casino games, and over the course of a few hours' play card-counters often can beat the house.

The study says that a single deck must be shuffled seven times before the ghosts of the previous configuration disappear and that six decks must be shuffled 12 times, most casinos use eight decks, but shuffle them only twice.

But more shuffling means less betting time, and casino officials said that would have a greater effect on their profit than a few card-counters.

Blacks heading south: The percentage of American blacks living in the south is growing for the first time in more than a century, according to a census bureau study in Washington.

After decades of moving north and west in search and more opportunity away from segregated states, blacks are heading back south. The region has seen a significant growth in jobs in recent years, population experts said, and it has opened up considerably in the wake of civil rights laws. (AP) . . .

Bush voices outrage: President George Bush vowed on Tuesday to battle racism and said he was outraged by a series of bombings, hate mail and threats against civil rights organisations.

"When we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, hate mail — each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America," Bush said at a ceremony honouring the assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (UPI) . . .

Allow Bible on school grounds: The Justice Department urged the supreme court Tuesday to allow student Bible and prayer groups to meet on public school grounds, arguing that such a ruling would preserve the country's religious freedom.

However, a lawyer for school officials in Omaha, Nebraska, whose refusal to approve a Bible-reading club led to the case, said education administrators do not have the authority to make such decisions. (AP) . . .

Court to bear Minnesota case: The US Supreme Court on Monday agreed to decide whether governors may withhold state national guard units from peacetime training ordered by the federal Minnesota who opposed Central American training missions for the state's national guard troops.

The judges last April rejected a similar appeal officials in the state of Massachusetts. (AP) . . .

Gallery solves Bellini mystery: After four years of work, the national gallery of art said Tuesday it has solved a major art mystery by discovering that an obscure Italian painter was responsible for mysterious alterations in Giovanni Bellini's masterpiece "The Feast of The Gods."

David Bull, the gallery's chief of painting conservation, said an extensive laboratory analysis shows that Bellini's 475-year-old work was repainted not only by his former pupil, Titian, but by Domenico Veneziano, a pupil of Alfonso D'Este of Ferrara. (AP) . . .

Organisers hopping mad: An importer has spawned a controversy by entering giant frogs in the annual frog jump jubilee, making some people hopping mad because the jumbo jumpers can stretch three feet (a metre) and weigh up to 15 pounds (6.8 kilos).

Organisers say Andy J. Koffman, 40, has created a "superfrog crisis" with his bid to enter 10 oversized amphibians from Africa in the whimsical competition started by Mark Twain's story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." (AP) . . .

Rare Papal bust may go boom: Christie's will auction a rare bust of Pope Gregory XV sculpted in 1621 and estimated to bring more than \$1 million, officials at the auction house said Tuesday.

The bust, by Giambrenzo Beroaldo, was scheduled to go on sale block Wednesday about noon as part of a 258-lot auction at Christie's Manhattan offices. Christie's spokeswoman Susan Britzman said. (UPI) . . .

Disneyland planning expansion: A biggest, flashier Disneyland — possibly including an "Indiana Jones" stunt attraction and a 1930s-style Hollywood movie lot — are on the drawing boards, Disney officials said.

Officials are keeping a tight lid on their plans, reportedly the most ambitious since the park's opening in 1955, until Friday. That's when Disney chairman Michael Eisner is scheduled to make an announcement. (AP) . . .

Satellite deployed: Columbia's astronauts smoothly put a navy communications satellite into orbit yesterday and sped on to a rendezvous with a science laboratory they want to pluck from space before it falls to earth.

"We had a good deploy. ... it looked real great," reported mission specialist David Low, about the 15,200-pound (6,894 kg) Syncom satellite slipped out of its berth and spun away, leaving the cargo bay empty and ready to receive the science package on Friday.

"Wecopy. Congratulations," NASA's mission control replied.

Forty-five minutes after release, an onboard motor fired in propellant the satellite toward its permanent working post 22,300 miles (35,900 km) above the Pacific. (AP) . . .

13-year-old girl sentenced: A 13-year-old girl convicted of soliciting the murder of her father was sentenced to 15 years to life.

Michelle Say was turned over to the California youth authority after Tuesday sentencing. She was accused of letting two former boyfriends into her Manteca home before she went to her seventh grade classes the morning of her father's murder last March. (AP) . . .

4 killed in coppter crash: Four soldiers have been killed in the crash of an Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during desert exercises.

The helicopter crashed Tuesday afternoon about 14 miles (23 kilometres) east of the main post of the sprawling Mojave Desert base, said Capt Gary Cleland. (AP) . . .

Transplant

Heart-liver recipient in hospital: The world's first recipient of a heart-liver transplant, Stormie Jones, was in serious condition Tuesday at children's hospital of Pittsburgh where she was undergoing tests, a spokesman said.

The 12-year-old was admitted three days ago, said Marcy Buczynski. The spokeswoman said doctors were awaiting results of a liver biopsy. Buczynski would not give the nature of the girl's ailment but said she was not confined to bed.

The White Settlement, Texas, girl has been treated on and off over the past six years for mild episodes of organ rejection.

Stormie received a new heart and liver at children's hospital in 1984.

Cult killers

Alice, Demon and Jaffery Lundgren, accused in the religious cult slaying of a Kirtland, Ohio,

Medical file

Tumour

Abnormal growth: A 7-year-old Soviet boy who is 6 feet (1.8 m) tall and nearly 200 pounds (90 kgs) underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic Tuesday to remove a pituitary gland tumour responsible for his abnormal growth.

Surgeons spent three hours removing the tumour, which was about two-thirds of the size of a racquet ball, from Igor Ladjan's head. The tumour was pressing on his brain and resulted in an overproduction of growth hormone, causing his phenomenal stature.

"When I spoke to the surgeons," they said, "there were so many surprises and things are going as planned." Mayo spokesman Chris Gade said. "They told me the first 24 hours kind of determine some things for me."

Mayo officials said the boy seems to have tolerated the surgery very well and was doing well early in the recovery period at the Mayo's Saint Mary's Hospital. (UPI) . . .

Lifestyle

Lifestyles, disease linked: Non-communicable diseases, caused by the nature of lifestyles, are responsible for 70 to 80 per cent of deaths in the developed countries and about 50 per cent of those in the developing countries, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Basically "man-made," the non-communicable diseases are the result of choice of lifestyles — notably by too much fatty foods, salt, and alcohol, by tobacco, lack of exercise and by polluted air.

Lifestyles are no longer purely conditioned by climate or culture, according to Dr. Eugenio Chigani, director of WHO's division of non-communicable diseases and health technology.

They are influenced by newspapers, magazines, radio, films and television. Lifestyles are imitated as fast as the written and electronic media transmit ideas from country to country, he said.

Improper diet alone carries the risk of stroke, heart disease, hypertension, colorectal, and stomach cancers, diabetes, osteoporosis (a bone disease), malnutrition, obesity and gastric ulcers. (Kuna) . . .

Fat

Rice bran lowers cholesterol: Rice bran appears to be as effective as oat bran in lowering levels of "bad" cholesterol, researchers reported Tuesday.

In a 10-week study of 11 adults funded by various rice companies, Louisiana State University researchers said they found diets rich in rice bran lowered levels of low density lipoprotein, the so-called "bad" cholesterol by 7 per cent.

"It is the first human study (of rice bran) with a strictly controlled dietary intake," said Marie Hegsted, a nutritionist who led the study. "We know exactly what the participants ate so that we could isolate whether rice bran effectively lowers cholesterol."

The subjects, ages 20 to 57, had initial cholesterol levels of 199 to 252 — from below-normal to above-normal levels. High cholesterol levels are thought by many doctors to increase the risk of heart disease. (UPI) . . .

Typhoid

Swiss oral vaccine approved: The Food and Drug Administration has approved an oral typhoid vaccine with fewer side effects than the injected vaccines that are currently available, officials said Tuesday.

"This vaccine will be important to tourists, business people and the military travelling to remote, less-developed areas where sanitation is poor," said Louis Sullivan, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, parent agency of the FDA.

The vaccine was developed and is made by the Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute in Berne, Switzerland. Berne Products Corp. of Coral Gables, Florida, will distribute the vaccine as Tyvovil berus vaccine.

Typhoid fever is rare in the United States. About 400 to 500 cases are reported annually, and in the majority of them the infection was contracted in other countries, the FDA said.

The disease is caused by a bacterial organism called salmonella typhi, which is spread through contaminated food and water. Infection is marked by prolonged fever, headache and malaise. About 10 per cent of untreated cases and less than 1 per cent of treated cases are fatal, the FDA said. (AP) . . .

Gunmen shoot dead

Two British housewives shot dead: Two gunmen shot dead a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment militia Tuesday as she broke down in tears when she discovered the meat she had been defrosting for a family meal turned out to be a small dog.

Anita Ganley called health inspectors in the central English city of Birmingham when the deadless carcass she had bought as rabbit from a local butcher left off a strong smell after being left overnight to defrost.

"I knew there was something strange about it but I never dreamt it would be a dog. I screamed when I found out and felt physically sick. It smelt absolutely horrific," Ganley told the court.

Outside the court Ganley said: "My husband Trevor is partial to a bit of rabbit but he hasn't touched one since."

Butcher Steven Hughes was cleared by the court of selling a product "not of the nature demanded" and Birmingham's senior environmental health officer, Ian Coghill, said there would be a further inquiry into the meat's origins.

Police remove miners: Federal police with submachine guns Tuesday closed down clandestine landing strips in northwestern Brazil in a campaign to oust illegal gold miners from Amazon Indian lands.

Last week, the government announced a \$4-million-dollar operation to remove the miners from the lands of the Yanomami Indians, one of the world's largest primitive tribes.

Some 40,000 miners are believed to be operating illegally on the Indian land, which is rich in gold, tin and diamonds.

About 9,000 Yanomami live in the region, near Brazil's northwestern border with Venezuela.

Cabinet named: President-elect Patricio Aylwin on Tuesday named an 18-member cabinet dominated by members of his own centrist Christian Democratic Party, but several key posts went to moderate socialist and other allies.

The cabinet, with a broad political base, will be made up of nine Christian Democrats, five socialists, three members of smaller groups in Aylwin's 17-party coalition and one independent.

Curiosity kills a cat: A cat found its way into a Peruvian power plant outside Lima on Tuesday and stepped on 10,000-volt electricity rods, electrocuting itself and blacking out much of this city of seven million people for about 15 minutes.

Workmen restored power to the city after removing the cat's remains from the rods, said a spokesman for state electric company Electro Peru.

Draft constitution introduced: President Joaquim Chissano introduced a draft constitution Tuesday that would provide for universal suffrage, secret ballot, and direct election of the president and Parliament in this formerly Marxist country.

"In spite of the barbaric crimes committed here, some people still are not conscious that we are at war with terrorism," Garcia said after rushing to the hospital where Enrique Lopez Alcalde died.

Garcia said he was outraged that Lopez Alcalde was alone and without bodyguards. As former army commander, the army would have been responsible for his security.

Four men armed with submachine-guns walked up to Lopez Alcalde, a retired army general who served as defence minister until last May. He was sprayed with at least 15 bullets as he stepped out of his car at a Lima mall, police said.

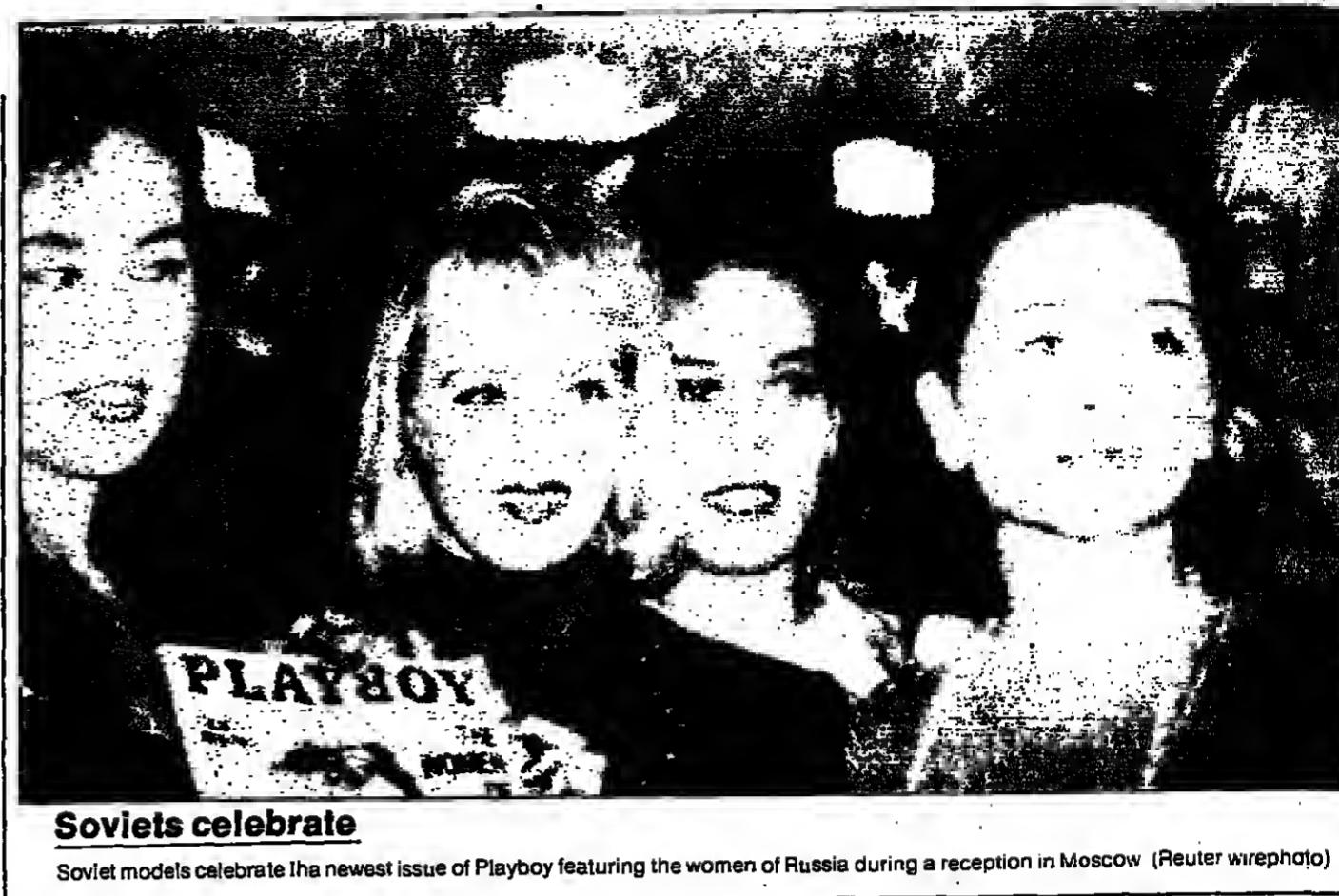
Rebels accuse government: Angolan rebels accused the Marxist government on Tuesday of launching a new offensive in southern Angola as international peace efforts stalled.

In a statement issued in Lisbon the rebel group Unita said troops made a twin-pronged thrust from the southern province of Kunene towards Savate and the Namibian border on Sunday. Four brigades and four tactical groups had been identified already.

It gave no further details. But it said fighting on another front to the east was continuing, with 14 soldiers and six Unita guerrillas killed between Jan 5 and 8.

Fighting there, along the Kunzanga river south-east of the battered town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-eastern Angola, has raged since Dec 21, killing well over 100 people.

Negotiations have stumbled between the Marxist government and Western-backed rebels in Unita to try to stop the 14-year civil war which followed independence from Portugal.



Soviets celebrate

INTERNATIONAL

HK refugee camp conditions criticised

HONG KONG, Jan 10, (UPI): An international women's group today deplored "concentration camp-like conditions" in Hong Kong refugee camps and criticised the government for forcibly repatriating boat people before sending volunteers back to Vietnam.

The group, which visited five detention centres normally closed to outsiders, told reporters conditions were "inhumane" and urged the British colonial government to allow voluntary agencies to work in the camps run by prison personnel to improve the lives of the Vietnamese.

Those classified as economic migrants have no

The delegation, headed by former US Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian and Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, denounced Hong Kong's refugee situation hours before a group of 123 boat people flew to Hanoi as part of a voluntary repatriation programme.

The latest group of returnees brought to nearly 1,000 the number of boat people who have voluntarily flown home since March rather than face forced repatriation if they are found to be economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

Those classified as economic migrants have no

chance of resettlement overseas and must stay in the crowded camps until they are sent back to Vietnam.

Britain carried through with its threat to forcibly repatriate boat people last month, sending 51 Vietnamese back to Hanoi in a secrecy-shrouded operation that government officials said was only the first in a planned series of planned deportations.

Expressing special concern for women and children held behind barbed wire and high walls in the detention centres housing about 56,000 Vietnamese, the group said conditions in the camps appeared to deliberately had to discourage new arrivals.

"No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning

infants, keeping them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentration camp-like conditions," they said in a statement. "The delegation can only conclude that the policy is designed to punish people who are seeking freedom."

Women in the camps are particularly vulnerable, Ullmann said.

They are scared of everyone — of the gangs, their fellow Vietnamese and they are scared of the police," she said, adding that young women told members of the group they had been told by correctional officers they must provide sexual favours if they were to receive protection in the camps.



Liv Ullmann listening to Vietnamese women from Hong Kong's Sek Kong refugee centre as they tell of their treatment in the camp. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela to be released soon

Only a matter of time

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 10, (AP): Government-run radio said today the release of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela was "only a matter of time," the strongest signal yet that his freedom is imminent.

The editorial by the South African Broadcasting Corp. also said Mandela, the country's best known black leader, can play a central role in opening black-white political dialogue.

"It has been clear for some months that it is only a matter of time before Mr. Mandela's release is announced," the broadcast said. "Moreover, by identifying himself with the ideals of peaceful development he has redefined his position."

In recent weeks, there has been almost daily speculation in the news media about Mandela's release. President FW De Klerk is widely expected to make an announcement on Mandela's status when he opens parliament on Feb. 1.

For most of Mandela's 27 years in prison, the white-led government has portrayed him and the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement he leads as terrorists and communists.

But recently it has described Mandela in favourable terms, in an apparent attempt to prepare the white community for his release.

"He would be in a position to make an important contribution to the creation of the conditions in which [black-white] talks could get under way," the editorial said today.

Meanwhile, The Citizen, a pro-government daily newspaper, said a planned visit within the next month by former US presidential candidate Jesse Jackson may affect the date of Mandela's release.

"The government does not want to give Mr. Jackson, an ardent critic of South Africa, any kudos if an announcement of the release of Mandela, which would be the case if an announcement were made during his visit," The Citizen said, quoting unidentified government sources.

Liberian forces massacre 200

Africa Watch reports

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): At least 200 Liberian civilians were massacred in northern Liberia and eyewitnesses fleeing the country attributed the killings to government forces, a human rights group reported yesterday.

The killings were the result of a Dec. 24 attempt to topple President Samuel K. Doe, according to Africa Watch. The organisation is a division of the private Human Rights Watch that monitors abuses around the world.

President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of neighbouring Ivory Coast reported that between 8,000 and 10,000 Liberians fled into his country in recent days, the group said.

"Africa Watch has also received reports of a shoot-to-kill policy instituted by President Doe, who has instructed troops fighting rebel forces to shoot on sight any persons engaged in suspicious activities," the organisation said.

Its statement also said three Liberian villages along the border with the Ivory Coast — Kahnplay, Boutuo and Lepulah — were destroyed in the fighting.



Sisulu: demand

The government has said it will grant Jackson a visa, but no dates for his trip have been announced.

Mandela, 71, has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government. He has refused to renounce the ANC's guerrilla campaign, saying he will do so only if the organisation is legalised and apartheid is dismantled.

Mandela has received a steady stream of visitors in recent weeks, ranging from cabinet ministers to prominent anti-apartheid leaders. He met Dec. 13 with De Klerk at the presidential office.

The West's biggest trade union, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) accused South Africa's state-run transport company yesterday of complicity in the killing of six black transport workers in a clash during a strike.

■ President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe today described current reforms of South Africa's racial policies as too few and too timid to be meaningful.

Alatas tries to revive talks

BANGKOK, Jan 10, (AP): Indonesia's foreign minister tried today to revive Cambodian peace talks, while sources in Phnom Penh acknowledged that bomb blasts had hit the capital and guerrillas had launched an attack near the second-largest city.

The minister, Ali Alatas, met in Bangkok with leaders of the three guerrilla groups, including Khmer Rouge representative Khiem Sampan.

He also met with Australian Deputy Foreign Secretary Michael Costello, who had just returned from Cambodia after promoting Canberra's plan for a UN administration there until free elections are held.

Alatas has organised several rounds of peace talks.

Reports of major Khmer Rouge attacks have intensified fears that without an agreement the communist guerrillas could seize power again. The Khmer Rouge governed Cambodia from 1975 until late 1978 when Vietnam invaded the country to oust the guerrillas. During their rule, the Khmer Rouge were blamed for killing hundreds of thousands of people.

The Khmer Rouge is the largest of three allied guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed government.

Several plastic explosives went off in the streets of Phnom Penh last Friday night, and several more the next night, the eve of National Day, said Khet Kanharith, editor of the government-sponsored weekly newspaper Kampuchea.

He denied Khmer Rouge claims that grenades were used and that the blasts had forced Vietnamese-installed President Heng Samrin to flee to Vietnam.

He said the city was quiet and citizens were not concerned because the blasts in four or five different places had not caused injuries or damage.

"There weren't even any broken windows," said the editor, reached by telephone from Moscow.

He said fighting in the western provincial capital of Battambang, the second-largest city, was limited to villages 10 to 15 kilometres (six to nine miles) away. That city also was quiet Wednesday, he said.

The official government radio said late yesterday that at midnight Friday, 100 to 200 Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked through four suburbs of Battambang town in an attempt to blow up an iron bridge.

But the Khmer Rouge army radio said early today the guerrillas had held Battambang town for four hours and still controlled route 5, the major highway leading from the city across the country to Phnom Penh.

Fleeing China persecution

TOKYO, Jan 10, (AP): The man who hijacked a Chinese airliner to Japan last month claims he had been arrested for pro-democracy demonstrations in China and was fleeing political persecution, a lawyer said yesterday.

Kazuyoshi Iwaki told reporters that Zhang Zhenhai claims to have damaged unoccupied tanks and armoured cars during pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last June.

She quoted the 35-year-old Zhang as saying, "there is no democracy and freedom in China. After the Tiananmen Square incident, many people were arrested or punished. Then I thought I would try to seek political asylum."

Ivory Coast said today it would seek international aid for an estimated 10,000 refugees who have fled fighting in neighbouring Liberia.

Its statement also said three Liberian villages along the border with the Ivory Coast — Kahnplay, Boutuo and Lepulah — were destroyed in the fighting.

Despite the controversy, US officials said plans were proceeding for Bush's participation in a four-nation Andean drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia on February 15.

Recent reports that a US aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered naval cruiser were heading for Colombia's Caribbean coast to try to block the flow of drugs sparked opposition in Colombia. US officials said their proposal would not go into effect without Colombia's concurrence.

This would seem difficult given the current climate.

On US official told Reuters: "It (the plan) is temporarily up in the air, but I think the Colombians will agree to a co-operative effort. After all, they want to catch smugglers as badly as we do."

There has been increasing apprehension in Latin America over what critics view as US willingness to intervene militarily in other countries, particularly after the recent US invasion of Panama to oust General Manuel Noriega.

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support for the US plan.

Defence officials told Reuters earlier that the plan called for navy aircraft to keep watch over Colombia from international waters, monitoring the flights of small aircraft entering and leaving remote areas of the country.

■ Colombia's foreign minister Julio Londono Paredes denied yesterday he was resigning after his sharp criticism of US plans to block cocaine traffic by stationing warships off this nation's coast.

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Bush last week said he would send Vice President Dan Quayle to Latin America to rally

support for the US plan.

Defence officials told Reuters earlier that the plan called for navy aircraft to keep watch over Colombia from international waters, monitoring the flights of small aircraft entering and leaving remote areas of the country.

■ Colombia's foreign minister Julio Londono Paredes denied yesterday he was resigning after his sharp criticism of US plans to block cocaine traffic by stationing warships off this nation's coast.

This would seem difficult given the current climate.

On US official told Reuters: "It (the plan) is temporarily up in the air, but I think the Colombians will agree to a co-operative effort. After all, they want

Credibility in question

Witnesses in Noriega trial

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): Prosecutors trying the cocaine-trafficking case against Manuel Antonio Noriega will likely face a barrage of defence attacks on the credibility of government witnesses who once smuggled drugs.

A key prosecution witness against the deposed Panamanian ruler is expected to be Floyd Carlton Caceres, who is serving a nine-year sentence for drug trafficking.

The background of Carlton and other witnesses likely to testify in Noriega's Miami trial illustrates the problems prosecutors will encounter when they ask jurors to accept the word of convicted criminals.

But legal experts say the problem is common to such cases, where, in the absence of wiretaps or testimony by undercover agents, the only sources of information about a defendant are unsavoury people who were part of a drug operation.

President George Bush and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh have said the case against Noriega is strong, indicating a belief among federal prosecutors that their witnesses' testimony will hold up in court.

Defence lawyers probably will argue that the jury shouldn't believe testimony from disreputable people.

"The answer the government is going to give is 'who do you expect him to associate with,'" said a former federal prosecutor who specialized in drug cases. "It's not an insurmountable problem; in fact, it's a typical problem," said the former prosecutor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "A major issue will be the ability of the government to corroborate the evidence from each of the witnesses."

Carlton has testified before congress that he arranged for the Medellin drug cartel of Colombia to pay Noriega \$200,000 for each plane load of cocaine that was protected as it was shipped through Panama to the United States.

Others who may testify are convicted money-launderer Ramon Milian Rodriguez and convicted smuggler Steven M. Kalish. Both have testified about the protection Noriega allegedly gave Colombian drug lords, including armoured-car transport of cash and the use of military airfields.

In addition, prosecutors conceivably can call as witnesses any of the five arrested Noriega co-defendants who might decide to plead guilty and, in return for a reduced sentence, testify against Noriega.

An attorney for one of those co-defendants, Luis Del Cid, indicated on Monday that his client was considering becoming a government witness.

"There was a very preliminary exchange of amanies where the possibility of some settlement was discussed," defence attorney Samuel Bustyn said of discussions with federal prosecutors.

"We're desirous of exploring all options, but no offers have been made on either side and there are no deals," he said.



Panama toll

The US Defence Department said it estimated that 220 Panamanian civilians were killed in the US invasion last month, a figure far below earlier unofficial estimates of thousands.

The Pentagon said last week that 314 members of the Panamanian Defence Forces (PDF) were killed in the invasion and 124 wounded. Twenty-three US troops died, 323 were wounded and three US civilians were killed in the invasion. Picture shows a US soldier mourning fallen comrades during a memorial service in Panama City. (Reuter wirephoto)

The indictment describes Del Cid, who surrendered last month to invading US forces, as an emissary and a source of information on drug cartels.

The indictment says Del Cid arranged the payment of money from the Medellin cartel to the US.

Del Cid presumably could corroborate Carlton's past testimony about one alleged payment of protection money that is described in the indictment.

The indictment says that, at Noriega's direction, Carlton delivered \$200,000 to Del Cid at the headquarters of the Panamanian defence forces, which were led by Noriega.

Noriega was very helpful to the US drug enforcement administration in Central America, a former DEA chief says.

■ Peru has granted diplomatic asylum to 12 Panamanians being sheltered in the home of its ambassador, and hundreds of people sacked the headquarters of Noriega.

■ Panama's new UN ambassador Eduardo Vallarino presented his credentials to the UN secretary-general in a ceremony aimed at putting to rest conflicting claims over the envoy's post.

REQUIRED TENDER COORDINATOR

For a leading company in the field of petroleum equipment. Should have the following:

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UN calls for global anti-drug war

VIENNA, Jan 10, (AP): The international drug trade threatens the stability of entire nations, and the battle against violent international cartels can only be won efficiently waged on a global scale, according to a UN report.

Traffickers now seek not just money but political control as well, one official said.

Despite unprecedented counteraction taken by the world community, an interlocking network of criminal drug-trafficking organisations, heavily financed and armed, has become even bolder and more ruthless, the 39-page survey said.

In its review of 1989, the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board

warned that "the danger of undermining and paralysing political institutions and economies of some countries has never been greater."

The traffickers' declaration of war against a single country endangers the security and integrity of all countries and constitutes war against the whole international community," the board said.

To overcome the assault, "the response of the international community must be concerted, swift, more forceful, more comprehensive, (and) more innovative."

The board's 13 members, elected by the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), do not represent their governments.

The board also co-operates with other international agencies concerned with drug control.

"For the criminal trafficking organisations, linked ... often with terrorist insurgents, to prevail in the struggle in any one country would imperial all countries," the report says. "The war to defeat them must be waged globally."

"A situation as we see it at present has never existed before," INCB secretary Abd el Aziz Bahi said in an interview.

There have always been drug traffickers, but now they not only want money, "they want to seize power in the state," he said.

Since 1988, illicit production of narcotic drugs has increased and involved more countries, the INCB report said, citing as an "ominous development" the spread of opium poppy cultivation to Guatemala and Colombia.

In its survey, the board said it considers

"a milestone" the conclusion in December 1988 of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As of Nov. 1, 1989, 77 nations and the European Economic Community were signatories to the convention, the board said, urging all other states to accede to it.

Pan Am probers confer

LOCKERIE, Jan 10, (AP): Senior investigators, police and prosecutors from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Malta met in Lockerbie on Thursday to assess progress in their worldwide hunt for the bombers of Pan Am Flight 103.

Chief Constable George Esson of Scotland's Dumfries and Galloway Police Force said the one-day conference at the Lockerbie House Hotel is the fifth in a series attended by personnel from the five countries.

No public statement was expected after the meeting, which was held behind closed doors. Security was tight.

The 30 participants, who included representatives of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice, were dressed in plain clothes and were not identified.

The four previous conferences were held in Lockerbie, Washington, London, and Meckenheim in West Germany.

A terrorist bomb hidden in the luggage hold of the Pan Am Boeing 747 blasted the plane apart over the southern Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988.

All 259 people aboard the plane, which was flying from London's Heathrow airport to New York, and 11 people on the ground were killed. Flight 103 originated at Frankfurt, West Germany, changing planes at Heathrow.

Investigators hunting the bombers have confirmed that one focus of their attention is the Syrian-based popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command headed by Ahmed Jibril.

Jibril has denied involvement but acknowledged his group has used similar devices to the plastic explosives hidden in a radio-cassette player which investigators say blew up flight 103.

Esson has said the suitcase containing the radio-cassette bomb was either checked in at Frankfurt airport, or passed through Frankfurt from a feeder flight. West German authorities say there is not enough evidence to pinpoint where the bomb originated.

See also Page 11

Lynch mobs are out

Romanians seek revenge against Ceausescu officials

BUCHAREST, Jan 10, (UPI): Mobs hungry for revenge after 25 years of repressive rule under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu are lynching or shooting officials connected to his ousted regime, a Romanian newspaper said.

The report yesterday came a day after the start of military trials of members of Ceausescu's secret police, accused of killing hundreds and perhaps thousands of people during last month's pro-democracy revolution.

The Bucharest newspaper Adevarul said vigilante groups are taking justice into their own hands in some areas of the country, lynching or

shooting former provincial and security officials and terrorising members of their families.

"A lot of executions are taking place without trials," the newspaper said. "These are horrible things that remind us of the dictatorship."

Adevarul said the attacks were "absolutely contrary to the democratic climate established in our country."

"Any other act of judgement (other than the government's) is against the law and results only in causing panic in society," the newspaper said.

Zoe had long line of lovers



Romanian children examine sophisticated western candies they are seeing for the first time ever in a state-run kindergarten in Cluj. The candies are part of a shipment of foreign aid. (Reuter wirephoto)

The paper said Zoe fell in love very easily and her escorts ranged from government ministers to simple bartenders.

"When she saw a handsome man she would let him go until she had hooked him."

too drunk to respond to her advances. It said she had twice undergone treatment for her drinking.

The paper said Zoe would drink her lovers under the table and kick them out of her room if they became

too drunk to respond to her advances.

It said she had twice undergone treatment for her drinking.

See also Page 11

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ARAB TIMES GRAND



Competition No. 75

PRIZES

First Full House: KD 100

Second Full House: KD 60

Third Full House: KD 40

Top Line: KD 25

Four Corners: KD 25

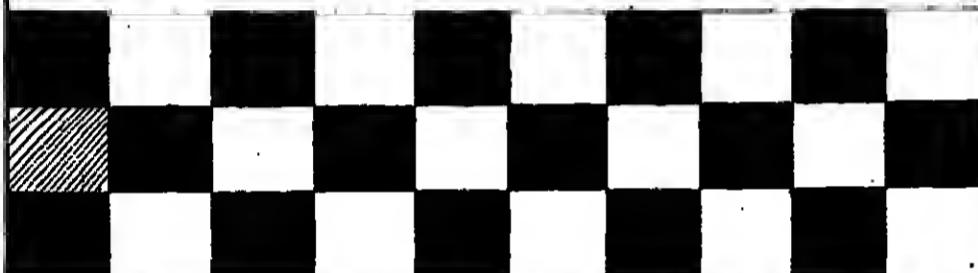
Hurry! make sure you get your Arab Times

HOW TO PLAY

- Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
 - Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
 - Fill in your name and address in the
- appropriate ones on the form, in block letters.
- Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
 - Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
 - Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO

No. 75 ENTRY

ANSWER THIS CLUE IN THE SHADED SQUARE:
THIS DECADE

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

FREE BINGO

No. 75 COPY



How to claim

RULES

EVERTY FOUR numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT.

This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

Gulf ministers discuss national labour force

ABUDHABI, Jan 10 (AP): Labour ministers of the seven Gulf Arab countries started a 3-day meeting yesterday to discuss aspects of developing a national workforce that can gradually take over from the millions of foreign hands they employ.

In the six countries that make up the Gulf Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — some six million foreigners are employed to help with the massive, oil-fuelled economic and social development plans that began with the oil boom of the 1970s.

They are mainly from Southeast Asia

and other Arab countries, and from several Western countries, especially Britain which had traditional close ties with the region.

Iraq has a developed labour force but resorted to foreigners, including more than one million Egyptians, when its men were at the front during the 1980-1988 war with Iran.

Iraq is grouped with the GCC states in what is called the Arab Gulf Council of ministers of labour and social affairs, whose 10th annual session is now convened.

"In spite of the labour and social achievements fulfilled, there are still a lot

of challenges and obstacles facing our joint efforts, but we are optimistic about the future," said Khalafan Al Roumi, the UAE minister of labour and social affairs in his opening speech.

Roumi, elected chairman of the current session, said recent developments would enhance life in the region. He listed the birth of several groupings within the 22-member Arab League, the return of Egypt after a 10-year hiatus because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and the Iraq-Iran ceasefire.

The agenda has several aspects of co-operation like classification of jobs, labour and social guidance programmes, training

programmes, vocational safety and its role in protecting human resources and creating awareness among citizens of the importance of their role in development.

Across the years, the council already sanctioned a rule that member states should start by hiring nationals, then other Arabs and finally non-Arab foreigners. But these rules are not enforced by law.

"The gap between the local and foreign workforce in the GCC states will take a long time to be closed," said Iskandar Rashad, an adviser to the Institute for Administrative Development at Abu Dhabi, speaking for the sparsely-populated countries south of Iraq.

Muslim food show in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Jan 10 (Kun): Kuwait will participate in the world's first international Muslim food and technology exhibition to be held here in August, a spokesman for the organisers said today.

The spokesman told Kun: "Booths at the four-day exhibition have been reserved for exhibitions from Kuwait."

To be held together with an international halal food conference, the exhibition is expected to draw as many as 250 international exhibitors and 5,000 trade visitors.

Organised by the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce, the \$250,000 project, has attracted attention and support from as far afield as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and all the Muslim countries in the region.

Haji Abdul Kadir Haji Elid Ali, vice-president of the chamber, said the exhibition, dubbed Imex 90, will raise awareness of the business potential available in halal food, the only kind of food Muslims can consume.

He pointed out there are about 1.8 billion Muslims around the world. They consumed an estimated \$60 billion worth of Muslim food last year.

Singapore's exports of halal food to the Middle East increased by 30 per cent in 1988 to \$124 million and are expected to keep rising.

Food exports to the Middle East include vegetable oil, coffee and tea, chocolates and confectionery and frozen seafood.

Ridwan Dzairi, director-general of the Trade Development Board which first mooted the idea, said local businesses with the technology and know-how to manufacture halal food can look for joint-venture partners or sell their contract-manufacturing ability at the exhibition.

Education panel

A PANEL on reformation of primary education in Kuwait is to be held early next week in the presence of national educationists and experts. Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodary announced.

He said the four-day panel which is opening tomorrow is mainly aimed at assessing the primary education stage with the objective of reaching broad links and formulas that can best suit the local society and respond to the country's development needs.



Haroon visits

Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Dr Meaad Al Haroon visited the Technical Studies College, the Communication and Aviation and Electricity and Water Centres yesterday. The undersecretary also visited all sections enclosed in addition to laboratories and workshops.

Dr Haroon met with the dean of the Technical

Investors prefer fixed deposits

Stock market fails to attract new funds

MOST of the dealers involved in the stock market after 1983 incurred exorbitant losses as the then purchase price was far higher than current levels, Sjaker Al Othman, deputy director-general for local investments affairs at Kuwait Securities Group said.

In an interview with a local daily, the official clarified that since 1983, the market had witnessed significant and continued retreat. He commented that this scenario has resulted in local investors refraining from investing in the local market.

Othman disclosed that the majority of investors during the last few years preferred to deposit their funds in banks in the shape of fixed deposits or investing abroad and other investors placing their confidence in the real estate market.

He added that the council has agreed to the appointment of Kuwaiti females in primary schools where presently, the teaching staff is exclusively male. The new appointees will undergo intensive training before taking up their job functions as secretaries, librarians, store keepers and sociologists, the official said.

Meanwhile, the official said that the forward sale speculation

system proved ideal for reactivating of the stock market as speculation on price differences was substantial and consequently profit margins became attractive.

Additionally, the forward sale system plays a significant role in attracting new investors to the market which eventually led to inflow of new funds and an improvement in share prices.

Speaking of investment funds, the official said that although these vehicles constitute a basic element that could help create a new mechanism for trading in the bourse, he expressed some doubts on its potential for increasing prices in the bourse.

He pointed out that the proposed funds will be based on collecting of funds, but the market is not suffering from a cash shortage. Basically, he said, investors are seeking opportunities to profitably invest their funds.

Othman pointed out that cash inflow constitutes a problem in itself in the absence of investment fields and concluded that investment funds will not solve the problems facing the bourse.

Meanwhile, other dealers disclosed that though the market has never suffered from any cash problem, the current signs indicate that the bourses is still unable to attract investors.

Furthermore, these dealers said that the market had lost a choice of its active dealers during the last few years. They further disclosed an important fact when they announced that about 94 per cent of deals in the market was conducted by the government companies and the individual activities were not exceeding 6 per cent of the dealing volume.

However, observers were in agreement that profits made by the companies is a major reason for relevant shares prices hike. A great number of the local companies had adjusted their positions and are currently distributing dividends with the banking sector distributing considerable dividends per annum. They said in Tokyo Bourse for example the price of each share should equal at least 60 folds of the dividend to be distributed for each share while in Kuwait that value of the share was equalling 12 to 13 folds of the dividend for each share.

The observers said that speculative activities play the major role towards pushing forward share prices and called for lifting off the restrictions imposed on the speculations.

Meanwhile, other dealers disclosed that though the market has never suffered from any cash problem, the current signs

Most children are inspired by TV heroes

Survey alarms parents

A RECENT survey on the psychiatric and educational effects of the television and the video sponsored by the Education Ministry showed 84 per cent children derive iconic inspiration from their TV heroes.

The survey showed that 92 per cent children talk about what they see on TV, which clearly reflects the profound influence that this magic box had on them and their behaviour.

The survey results indicated that 45 per cent of the parents showed little concern for what their children chose to watch on TV during their teens.

The survey also revealed that 97 per cent children showed considerably increasing interest in watching recorded material, which took them through their teens and that 65 per cent of them chose their favourite material to watch away from parental control or guidance.

The survey warned that the majority showed a general trend towards using the video as an entertaining rather than a medium for education and knowledge, about 83 per cent children covered by the survey had more than one TV set at home, and they lacked minimum parental guidance.

The survey quoted parents as saying that 91 per cent of the material shown on TV was

violence-packed movies, which raised tension that would result in nightmarish trend.

According to the survey 70 per cent of parents said that their children watch Western movies, and that addiction to Western culture expanded the existing gap between the young and old generations.

The parents contacted agreed that watching TV was a good pastime during holidays and official recess and 70 per cent saw TV as a good communication medium that helped children to understand global and national issues, the survey disclosed.

The survey stressed the need for increasing parental control and guidance over the material their children watched on TV or VCRs, particularly at a time when their age did not permit them to decide what was good or bad for them.

The survey also stressed the need to tighten censorship on recorded material offered by video-shops, whereby strict measures would be taken against those who dealt with material that cast harmful effects on the younger generation.

The survey recommended the role of schools in increasing students' awareness so that children would develop self-appreciation of what they could label constructive or educative.

General Director of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdulla Hamed Haji Abdul Reheem yesterday honoured a number of police officers for their high performance while on duty. The ceremony held at the Higher Traffic Council hall was attended

by a number of traffic department directors.

Hajji Abdulla Hamed Haji Abdul Reheem

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Additional cost for tele-tower

THE Telecommunication Tower project's layout is

in need of incorporating amendments which will require additional financial costs to be added to the project's budget. Barrak Al Turki, chief engineer of the constructional projects engineering at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Works said.

Without elaborating on the details of the cost of the proposed amendments, the official said the value of the tower of the telecommunication building amounted to KD25 million with the involvement of 650 engineers and workers along with 40 sub-contractors.

In an interview with a local daily, Turkey said that the new premises of the Telecommunications Department consisted of several buildings as well as 372-metre high tower. This tower is intended to serve the needs of telecommunication services between Kuwait and the entire world.

The major portion of the building has been accomplished, including the main part of the tower estimated at 220 metres. Another six floors and a hole will be built to accommodate the telecommunication equipment.

The official expressed his satisfaction of the progress of the work which he said was according to the relevant programmes. All the works in the project will be accomplished during the first half of 1991, Turkey said.

Replying to a question, the official said that the ministry is encouraging local contractors to participate in the implementation process of the ministry's projects, clarifying that some tenders were opened only for local contractors.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Leaders seek Angolan peace

Goal slips further

LAUNDA, (Reuter): African leaders are redoubling their efforts to bring peace to war-weary Angola, but each time they try to move forward their goal seems to slip further out of reach.

The latest bid to find an "African solution" to one of the continent's longest and bloodiest conflicts was to begin yesterday with a summit of eight African heads of state in the Angolan capital.

But only 36 hours before the start, the meeting was vetoed by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko who let it be known he was too busy to attend amid fresh signs of disagreements with Angola's Marxist authorities.

No new date has been fixed for the summit, which had already been postponed several times.

Tactic

It would not be the first time Mobutu has used the tactic of the "empty chair", perfected by the late French leader Charles de Gaulle, to remind others not to take him for granted.

Despite Mobutu's denials, Zaire is thought to be the main channel for US aid worth an estimated \$50 million each year to National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) rebels.

This alone makes him one of the key brokers in the efforts to end the 15-year-old war, a role formalised in his mediation between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

The Zairean president, using a mixture of guile and bluff, began the peace negotiations with a spectacular coup last June when he persuaded the two men to meet and shake hands in his palace of Gbadolite in front of a host of African leaders.

But the verbal agreement collapsed within weeks and Savimbi angrily disowned the terms he was supposed to have accepted at Gbadolite.

Fighting

Since then fighting in southern Angola has intensified and six months of diplomatic manoeuvring seems only to have driven the two sides further apart.

They now seem to be wary not only of each other but also of Mobutu.

Dos Santos spoke for the first time in a Portuguese television interview last weekend of an "impasse" in the talks, a word previously avoided by the Angolans.

For his part, Savimbi described a new peace formula offered by Dos Santos on Dec 30 as a step backwards.

The eight heads of state met last August and September without Savimbi, lining up behind the official Angolan version of what was agreed in Gbadolite.

The most controversial elements of this package were that Savimbi should withdraw from politics for an unspecified period and integrate his pro-Western guerrillas into the government, political and military system.

In recent weeks Dos Santos has dropped the demand that Savimbi should withdraw, saying there are "other possibilities" for him.

Elections

But he has flatly ruled out Unita's demand for free elections and a multi-party system.

There has been further friction between Angola and Zaire over ceasefire proposals by Mobutu believed to involve the stationing in Angola of troops from other African countries.

These proposals have been accepted by Unita but rejected by the Angolans as a breach of their sovereignty.

A call by Dos Santos in his television interview for the meeting to clarify and redefine his role as mediator may have made Mobutu decide to pull out of the Luanda summit.

The so-called group of eight consists of Angola, Zaire, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The African presidents, all of them with one-party states of their own to protect, are expected to stand behind Dos Santos in opposing Unita's demand for a multi-party system as "un-African".

Slogan

But Savimbi's slogan of free elections is topical, coming soon after the success of neighbouring Namibia's election under UN supervision.

It also coincides with the shock waves running through Africa from events in Eastern Europe where one-party rule has largely been discredited as a political system.

Dos Santos says his country, potentially one of the richest in Africa but now one of the poorest, is too backward to hold multi-party elections "at this historical stage."

Instead he has promised a "democratic opening" to other social forces outside the ruling party and said that independent candidates could stand in elections.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1569 — First lottery in England is drawn in St Paul's Cathedral under Queen Elizabeth I's patronage.
- 1681 — Brandenburger and France sign defence alliance.
- 1753 — Spain's King Ferdinand VI signs concordat with Pope Benedict XIV.
- 1814 — Joachim Murat, king of Naples, deserts Napoleon Bonaparte and joins allies.
- 1887 — Otto Von Bismarck advocates larger German Army.
- 1919 — Romania annexes Transylvania.
- 1942 — Japanese take Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in World War II.
- 1943 — Britain and United States relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.
- 1945 — Truce is declared in Greek civil war.
- 1962 — Avalanche buries village in the Andes in Peru, and 3,000 people are reported killed.
- 1970 — In Nigeria, 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian control government.
- 1972 — New state of Bangladesh is recognized by East Germany.
- 1975 — Soviets launch manned spaceship to rendezvous with space laboratory sent into orbit around the earth.
- 1976 — President Rodriguez Lara of Ecuador is ousted in a coup.
- 1988 — Study shows increase of \$930 million in military expenditures throughout world in 1987.
- 1989 — More Cuban troops leave Angola under a US-brokered agreement between Cuba, South Africa and Angola.



Several thousand Bulgarians demonstrate in Kurdzhali southern Bulgaria on Friday to protest the decision last month by the Communist leadership to restore civil rights to the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks (Reuter wirephoto)

Bulgarian opposition leaders angry

Communists encourage protests

SOFIA, Bulgaria. (AP): Bulgarian opposition leaders and Western diplomats say communist hard-liners are encouraging Slav protests against the Turkish minority, taking advantage of an old ethnic conflict to disrupt democratic reforms.

"It's an organized process from lower and middle levels" of the Communist Party, "and even some people at the top," Petko Simeonov, a leader of the opposition club for glasnost and democracy, asserted.

"Local party leaders fear they're going to lose their privileges. They fear they are going to lose their skin," said Konstantin Trenchev, a 35-year-old leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, an umbrella opposition group.

"As far as we can tell, local party officials, who have not yet been touched by perestroika, are organizing the protests," said a Western diplomat in Sofia speaking on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of nationalists in the past week have staged strikes and demonstrations in at least eight cities across Bulgaria to protest a Dec 29 decision by central authorities to restore cultural and religious rights to the country's estimated 1.2 million Muslims, mostly ethnic Turks.

The independent trade union Podkrepa in southern Haskovo and Kardzhali, where some of the most vehement ethnic protests occurred last week, said local officials commandeered buses and cars, megaphones and flags for the protests.

According to Venelin Raichev, Bulgarian journalist who wrote the story for the Soviet weekly Moscow News, Zhivkov had resisted all calls for reform in Bulgaria and had decided to crush opposition inside and outside the party.

Petar Mladenov, who replaced Zhivkov on Nov 10, has promised to steer Bulgaria out of its Stalinist past and into a democratic future.

The outburst of anti-Turk sentiment is embarrassing Mladenov's government and will likely complicate upcoming round-table talks with the democratic opposition on reform and free elections promised by many.

Simeonov said the protests "could push the country into a neo-fascist and nationalist direction" and delay the talks.

The deep mistrust between nationalists among the country's Slav majority and ethnic Turks has been fanned since the mid-1980s by Zhivkov's assimilation policy and anti-Turkish propaganda, opposition leaders say.

But the current conflict sprang at least in part from a serious rift between hard-line communists and reformist leaders in Sofia.

Trenchev said he doubts the hard-liners can retain lasting influence, given the radical changes sweeping through Eastern Europe.

"They cannot exist alone in the world, isolated between East and West," he said.

But a fascinating account of Zhivkov's ouster indicates that the former leader, who had been in power for 34 years, did not go willingly, and probably still enjoys the support of some communists.

According to Venelin Raichev, Bulgarian journalist who wrote the story for the Soviet weekly Moscow News, Zhivkov had resisted all calls for reform in Bulgaria and had decided to crush opposition inside and outside the party.

Security forces were placed on alert on the eve of the Nov 10 central committee plenum, the account said.

Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov and two other senior officials, all comrades of Zhivkov's in a World War II partisan group, then talked to Zhivkov privately and urged him to quit, Raichev wrote.

Zhvivkov was "virtually escorted" to a politburo meeting that same evening to prevent him contacting close aides, the journalist said. At the politburo meeting, Zhivkov said he would resign, but tried to block Mladenov's nomination by proposing premier Georgi Atanassov, a more conservative communist, as his successor, Moscow News said.

Atanassov, who has retained the premiership, declined, paving the way for Mladenov's nomination, the weekly added.

The picture it painted of internal party rifts suggests it would be easy for local communists who owe their position to Zhivkov to organise the kind of protests seen in the last week in Bulgaria.

Senior communist leaders, opposition members, representatives of the Turkish minority and Slav nationalists held a second round of consultations Tuesday to try to defuse the situation.

On Monday, they called for a moratorium on further large protests or strikes. Tensions appear to have abated as a result, but ethnic hostility is deeply ingrained and could flare up.

Despite the moratorium, a few dozen anti-Turk demonstrators gathered again Tuesday around the national assembly, or parliament, in Sofia, and some of their remarks were tinged with racial tones.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

US administration worried

Asian-Pacific relations deteriorate

THE Bush administration is seriously troubled by the deterioration of its relations with several countries in the Asian-Pacific region. It has become all the more aware of it as its relations with the Soviet Union and Western Europe have greatly improved.

The contrast between the rapidly growing economic co-operation within the European Economic Community and the lack of such co-operation in the Asian region is so glaring that the administration early last year tried to do something about it.

It attaches, therefore, special significance to the process of forming a structure for economic co-operation in the area which began last spring when a dozen countries met in Canberra, Australia, to set it in motion. The process has come to be called the APEC process and further discussions among high officials are scheduled for this month in Washington with a ministerial meeting to follow in Singapore in another one in 1991 in South Korea.

Although APEC has so far aroused little world attention, the United States, according to a high State Department official, considers it the most significant development in Washington's Asian policy.

"In ten years' time," he suggested, "historians will share this view. Europe in the Economic European Community has a well advanced structure for economic co-operation and, consequently, has gained a great deal of inner economic strength."

The lack of such a structure in the Asian-Pacific region, he concluded, is proving to be a serious handicap and needs to be dealt with.

The American priorities in the Asian region are, first, strengthening the US-Japanese partnership which has badly deteriorated, secondly, re-establish

a more normal relationship with the Chinese government and, thirdly, resolve the conflict over Cambodia. The two secret trips to China by two of President Bush's top foreign policy advisers is proof that the President is most anxious to maintain contact with Beijing, the conservative backlash in China but that to dance to a tango (even though this may not be exactly a Chinese habit) two partners are needed. Only in a minor way, so far, has the Chinese government shown an inclination to co-operate. It cancelled the intermediate-range missile sales to Middle Eastern countries after the Bush administration objected to the deal and also revived the Fulbright programme for American students to study in China. However minor these concessions, they are seen here as an indication of a desire to improve relations with the US.

Not so long ago the main reason the US sought good relations with China were strategic, to counterbalance Soviet power in the region. That reason has now been overtaken by history. Today the US is much more concerned with the possibility that turmoil in China could have been an incendiary effect and cause trouble in the entire Asian region. Furthermore, sooner rather than later, China will play an important economic role in the region. High officials emphasise that Bush's attitude simply reflects the belief that it is in the US interest to maintain a constructive relationship with China.

What has surprised the Bush administration is the extent to which the Taiwan government, too, is seeking to maintain good relations with the Chinese mainland. There are some Taiwanese politicians who advocate Taiwan's independence, but that is not the official policy of the Taiwan government. American officials report that Taiwanese investments, undertaken via Hong Kong, on the mainland of China have not only been maintained but are increasing. It is quite obvious that the government does not want to interrupt those investments, but wants to continue them. Its policy toward China is similar to that of the US, it is the so-called "One China" policy and it has been that for some ten years. And no change should be expected.

However it is the tense relationship with Japan that is most worrying to Washington. The differences over economic and commercial policy are such that they are unlikely to improve soon unless Japan makes good on its promise to encourage American imports by reducing existing trade barriers.

Admittedly, the situation has improved in the last year especially but not enough.

Gorbachev, too, is anxious to improve relations with Japan. One reason is Soviet interest in Japanese investments, another is to sign a peace treaty to establish political stability in the Asian-Pacific

region. The reason no peace treaty has yet been concluded is because various territorial disputes have remained unresolved. The Soviet Union still occupies the so-called Northern Territories, the islands of the Habomias, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu. This happened not as a result of a lawful disposition, in accordance with international law, but it was a unilateral decision through the use of military power.

Japan apparently has no intention of signing a peace treaty with the Soviet Union as long as the occupation of these four islands continues. For Gorbachev to make such a concession is not easy. After having let go of the Soviet East European empire, he probably finds it difficult politically to give up the kind of strategic territory these islands represent to the Soviets. To make it easier for himself, American officials believe, he is pressuring the United States to reduce its naval bases, and naval presence generally, in the Pacific. Such a withdrawal, they suggest, would make it easier for him to say that he does not need those islands any more since their main strategic significance is to serve as a protection against American naval power. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit the United States in March and the island issue is expected to be high on the agenda.

Soviet eagerness to improve relations in the Pacific also extends to South Korea, whose outstanding industrial development has impressed the experts in Moscow. They are amazed how fast South Korea developed from a Third World country into an advanced industrial one. Russians themselves refer to their own state as being, economically, a developing one, and they are eager to learn how to create the industrial know-how, the skilled labour and the capital. South Korea today exports more than the big Soviet Union. Moscow, as a preliminary step has opened an office dealing with trade in Seoul, not yet an embassy, but diplomatic relations, irrespective of Soviet relations with North Korea, may well follow within a year or so.

Talking about diplomatic relations, the Vietnamese have been trying to convince the US that the time has come to establish diplomatic relations, but the US has been telling them that in order to reach an agreement on normalising relations the Vietnamese would first have to withdraw from Cambodia. There are various assertions that this has already happened or is in the process of happening, but it is still not clear whether any conditions are attached to it. There is little trust here in what the Vietnamese say.

It is not surprising, in view of the many unresolved issues, problems and uncertainties that the US looks at the Asian-Pacific region with a great deal of concern and with a certain determination to shift American attention much more to the Far East than it has in the past.

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 11-12, 1990

Letters to the editor

Unjust criticism

SIR: After reading Ebrahim Alhamar's letter "Humiliating remarks" (AT Jan 2) in response to E Haider's letter, it was clear he vented his criticism unjustly on E Haider, whose letter was clearly referring to marriages between English and Kuwaiti persons respectively and her feelings about leaving family, friends, and expert medical care.

And rightly so. Our health service which is also free has one of the best reputations in the world. Our British doctors and nurses are impeccable. Still with problems, mistakes, wrong diagnosis, etc which they and every other country face, including Kuwait, they are still far superior in my opinion and always will be. The very large majority of Kuwaitis, Saudis and Gulf Arabs who use our health service prove that even more so.

Concerning the American education system in my district, my son's school is a government one which at the beginning of this year introduced this American way of learning. It's basically still in the early stages but should show signs at the end of this school year whether the children (Kuwaiti) have benefited from it or not.

If it proves a success, then I am sure our children when leaving school will be able to pinpoint Kuwait on the map. If not, then the Kuwaiti education authorities will probably introduce something better. My reference to these points are only to prove that even if our own systems don't work, the Kuwaiti government is always willing to introduce other systems to benefit their people whether they come along with mistakes or problems.

Surely in time it will show whether they have learned from these flaws to go on and introduce new ways whether they be Kuwaiti, American or British. I don't know of any country that can claim to have perfect health, education and society. Anyone with common sense can see that all is not perfect with society. We hope and pray, with flaws here and there, as we as parents can instill good manners, morals and decency in our future generations.

Perhaps Alhamar with admit to these flaws around him and I hope he will impress on his children to make this country a better one for the future of all people.

D. Barakat

Al Rowda

UMO's achievements

SIR: This is to disclose some vital facts about UMO's activities. In 1986-87 it was the organisation which conducted Bharat Mela for the first time in Kuwait during 1986-87 and it was a grand success. They collected good amounts from the community by organising dance festival, Natya; Souvenir production, Malayalee Samajam; Cultural programme, Tapasya; drama competition and a children's competition at JAC.

But UMO never collected a single fil as admission fee from the public. UMO's services are not limited, but wide and sincere. Some of their achievements are: getting reduction for dead body transport to India, scholarship for brilliant and deserving students, the price hike check of Indian vegetables, evening counter at Embassy of India for the

Blackmail: cries Jibril of Pan Am charge

BEIRUT, Jan 10, (AP): Radical Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril said yesterday that he engineered the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland was a deliberate attempt to blackmail Syria.

"We believe that campaign is aimed at blackmailing Syria and President Hafez Assad because the United States and (President George) Bush believe the time is ripe to settle scores with countries and movements hostile to imperialism," Jibril told a hastily-arranged press conference.

Jibril, a former Syria army captain who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Com-

mand, has been blamed for the midair explosion of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec 21, 1988.

All 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground were killed.

Jibril claimed that the United States and France also hold Syria responsible for the twin suicide truck bombings of the American marine base and the French paratroop headquarters in Beirut that killed 24 US servicemen and 58 Frenchmen in 1983.

"But they do not want to face Syria outright so they did it indirectly by trying to implicate us in the (Lockerbie) bombing," Jibril told the packed news con-

ference at Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp in West Beirut.

"We say it loud and clear that President Hafez Assad is not a Noriega and Syria is not a banana republic," the unshaven, tired-looking Jibril said in reference to the recent US invasion of Panama and the subsequent arrest of its former dictator Manuel Noriega.

Asked whether he condemns the Lockerbie bombing, Jibril said, "we condemn all acts that lead to the killing of civilians and innocents."

"But by the same token I want to ask, hasn't Bush in his recent attack on Panama willfully killed children, women and

infants?"

Asked to comment on reports that his group and Iran plotted the Lockerbie attack together, Jibril said, "These are just fabrications that are not based on any kind of truth."

Jibril and other radical groups broke ranks with the PLO led by Yasser Arafat over the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Jibril rejected a call by another breakaway leader, Khaled Fahoum, former head of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, for a reunification of all dissident factions with the PLO.



Army clears roadblock

An Israeli army jeep clears a roadblock as other soldiers direct in the background. The roadblock was erected to make access to the village difficult. A United Nations vehicle (back left) waits to pass. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shiites step up battle in Lebanon

SIDON, Jan 10, (Agencies): Rival Shiite Muslim militias clashed with renewed fury in South Lebanon today, spurning mediation efforts by Iran.

The pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hezbollah militias rained artillery shells and rockets on each other's positions for the 19th successive day, sending terrified villagers scurrying for cover.

Both groups, fighting for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shiites, denied a statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Besharati yesterday that a ceasefire had been agreed.

Security sources said the militias shelled each other's positions in the villages of Ain Qana, Ain Boushar, Jarjouh and Arsalim in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

There were no reports of casualties from the six-hour non-stop barrage, the fiercest in five days. At least 76 people have been killed and 280 wounded since fighting erupted on December 23.

Scores of villagers fled their homes. Many who fled earlier had just returned, thinking the fighting had eased.

Political sources said Besharati, who arrived in Beirut on Sunday, met separately yesterday with leaders of Amal and Hezbollah.

Muslim sources told Reuters the Iranian envoy, in several hours of talks, failed to persuade Hezbollah to withdraw from five villages seized from Amal in street-to-street battles.

The sources said the Hezbollah asked for guarantees that a peace pact signed last year with the more secular Amal would be implemented. Amal has said Hezbollah must quit the villages before any talks can start.

Despite recurring confrontations between Shiite militias in southern Lebanon, a Palestinian official said today the deployment of some 700 Palestinian troops has succeeded in halting the fighting.

An official in the PLO's main-stream Fatah Movement, Zeid Wehbe, said despite the limited violations "the deployment of Palestinian commandos stopped the violence by 90 per cent."

Some 700 Palestinians deployed last week from bases around Sidon to the region of Tufah in what has been described as a peace-keeping mission to act as a buffer zone between the rival Shiite groups.

"This was a Palestinian decision taken by (PLO chairman) Yasser Arafat to end the bloodshed," Wehbe said. "Any operations room which excludes the PLO cannot achieve its complete role in resisting Israel."

Iran hangs 31 drug traffickers

NICOSIA, Jan 10, (Agencies): Iran hanged 31 drug traffickers today, including four Afghans and three women, in the first reported executions of such offenders this year, Tehran Radio said.

The radio said those executed in various parts of the country had distributed four tonnes of narcotics and spread prostitution.

The largest number 23, were sent to the gallows in the city of Karaj north of Tehran.

The Afghans were hanged after being found guilty of smuggling drugs into Iran.

Iran, which officially admits to having a million addicts, lies on a drug-smuggling route from Afghanistan to the West.

Three of those hanged in Karaj were women, two of whom were sisters, and four were Afghan nationals, the report said.

The latest executions brought to at least 1,294 the total number of people hanged for drug trafficking in Iran since January 1989.

Baker may abandon Mideast peace bid

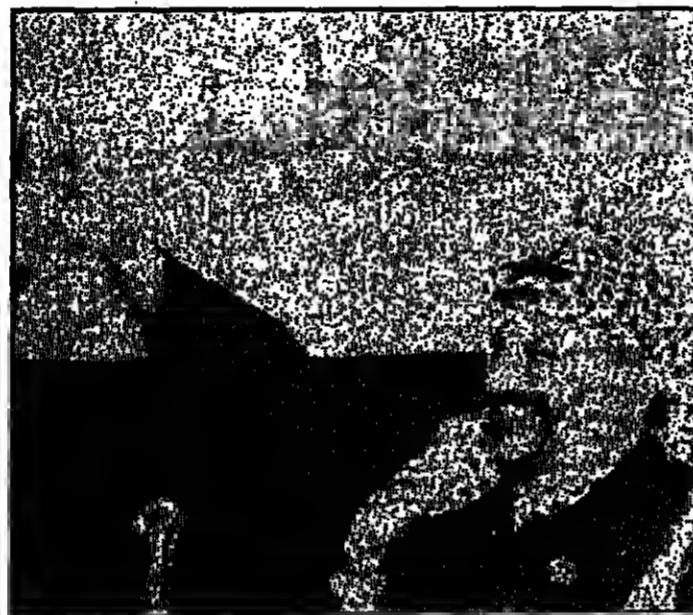
Israel fails to respond to US

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 10, (Agencies): Israel's decision-making inner cabinet met today amid reports that US Secretary of State James A. Baker may abandon efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Israel radio said Baker, in an effort to revitalise the process, had asked US Jewish leaders and several members of Congress to pressure Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to be more flexible.

Israel has demanded iron-clad assurances from the United States that Yasser Arafat's PLO would have no direct or indirect role in proposed talks to be held in Cairo.

On Tuesday, Baker was reported frustrated with delays in convening Israeli-Palestinian talks on an Israeli election proposal prompted by the 25-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.



Arslan waves the victory sign to a crowd of people gathered to see him at the Egyptian Labour University in Cairo. (Reuter wirephoto)

Groundwork needed for ME talks

CAIRO, Jan 10, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks today with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in a fresh attempt to revive what commentators said was dwindling interest in the Middle East peace process.

No details emerged and Arafat, chairman of the PLO avoided reporters after the one-hour meeting.

Palestinian sources said Arafat and Mubarak, joined by their top policy makers, discussed peace moves and implications of Egypt's newly restored ties with Syria — base for anti-Arafat Palestinian factions.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said yesterday that adequate preparations should precede the proposed Middle East peace negotiations, postponed due to unresolved problems.

Abdel-Meguid was reacting to a US decision to postpone a meeting with Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers.

He made the statement to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Arafat.

"Egypt is keen for the establishment of the dialogue, and to guarantee its success, adequate preparations should be made. We can not go to a meeting that would result in failure," Abdel-Meguid said.

Arafat said his talks with Abdel-Meguid were conducted as part of regular consultations between the PLO and Egypt for reaching a just and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

The tripartite meeting gathering Abdel-Meguid, Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had been expected to take place in Washington this month.

and Arens in Washington.

"As long as there is hope, there is reason to be engaged," Tuwiler said. But she added: "He's also a realist. If the parties are serious he will continue to work with them."

The tripartite meeting was scheduled to be held this month, but was postponed until February due to unresolved differences over the PLO role and the agenda for the proposed Israel-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

It was designed to reach agreement on the composition of a Palestinian delegation that would meet with Israeli officials in Cairo to discuss Israel's elections proposal.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuwiler said Baker called Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid yesterday to discuss a planned meeting between Meguid, Baker

and Arens in Washington.

"It is absurd to have a meeting if the meeting resolves nothing," Tuwiler said.

The meeting of the three foreign ministers was the cornerstone of Baker's five-point plan to restart the peace process.

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Soviet ballet dancers to perform in Kuwait

AFTER the successful performance of the Bolshoi Ballet in Kuwait last year, Soviet Ballet returns with a brand new company featuring ballet stars from several noted Russian dance companies.

Thirty-four dancers from the Russian Ballet Company will give two performances on Feb 2 and 3 at the Andalus Cinema.

The Soviet ballet dancers will be in Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour that takes them to Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

The soloists are Vyacheslav Gordeev and Irina Lazarev, who belong to the world-renowned

Bolshoi group; Kaye Kyrh of the Estonia Ballet company and Yana Kazantseva of the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow.

The Russian Ballet Company of Moscow is the youngest among the several ballet theatres in the Soviet Union. This company is noted for preserving the "heritage of the art" despite acquiring contemporary artistry and skills. It was founded in 1988 by Vyacheslav Gordeev, who believes in creating a balance between contemporary and classical dance.

The company's repertoire has been influenced by historic choreographic records from past

performances of the Russian and Soviet ballet periods. They were one of the first to perform the works of Blanche and Jose Lemon in the USSR.

The American press has acclaimed Gordeev as the "most artistic and elegant dancer from the Bolshoi."

Gordeev graduated from the Moscow Ballet Academy in 1968 and joined the Bolshoi Ballet as a soloist in the same year. In 1973, he won the title of the Lenin Komsomol and was named the "People's Artist" in 1984. From that date, he has been the driving force behind the Russian Ballet Company, touring several countries including Mexico, Portugal, India, Italy, France, West Germany and the US.

Yana Kazantseva of the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow is also an award-winner and has

and Albert in Giselle.

Irina Lazarova was invited to join the Bolshoi company as a soloist. She is one of the few dancers who can dance almost all the classical solo numbers, including Giselle (Giselle); Princess Froline (Sleeping Beauty); the Spanish Doll (Nutcracker) and the Shepherdess (Spartacus). She is well-known for her modern ballet pieces such as Spring Waters and Mashkovsky's Waltz.

The soloist of the Estonian Ballet Theatre, Kaye Kyrh, won a gold medal at the All Soviet Ballet Competition in 1984. She has since won several awards, including the prestigious title of becoming the "People's Artist of Estonia."

Yana Kazantseva of the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow is also an award-winner and has

an extensive repertoire including most of the recognised classical pieces. Some of them will be performed in Kuwait.

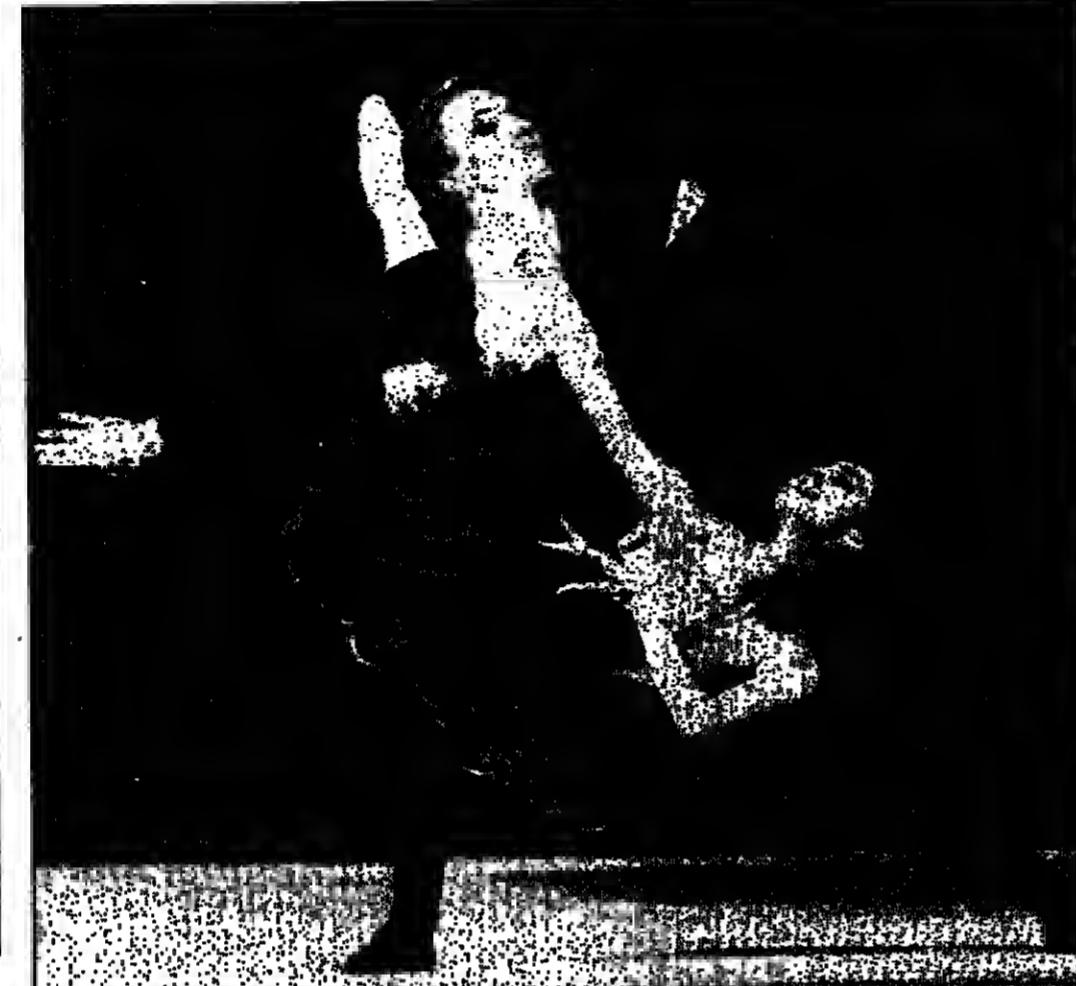
In most countries, the company performs a full-length ballet, but in several cases they perform a series of pieces from various ballets. This will be done in Kuwait as well, and they are expected to perform excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty," Pugni's "Carnival in Venice" and Esmeralda, Adam's Giselle, Drigo's Harlequinade and many others.

There will be two performances in Kuwait on Friday, Feb 2 (6 pm) and Saturday, Feb 3 (8 pm). The Friday show will commence at the earlier time of 6 pm so that school students can attend, said organiser Anant Kapadia.

Ticket prices are KD 6, 9 and 15 and will shortly go on sale.



(Right): Principal soloists Gordeev and Irina Lazarev
Top: One of the ballet numbers



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Photography and Oil painting classes

Oil painting classes beginning 15 January.

Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.

8 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making. For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Ramada Al Salam

GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

British Council

THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm. This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515121, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Twin Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Foothall Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casmiro."

Tha People's Trust Club

The People's Trust Club's get together which was to be held on Jan 11 has been cancelled. The club apologises for any inconvenience.

Like a Hurricane!

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounsurant Astana Dial" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Finalists) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felicy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Saez Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saez Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisre Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Function on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be

giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the theatre on 21 and 22 January at 5 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

Adabi Digest

An Urdu monthly Adabi Digest (literary magazine) will be launched on Thursday, Jan 11, 8.30 pm at the Meridian Hotel. The magazine will be issued from Lahore, Pakistan. A mushaira (poetry session) will also be held.

SPORTS

Daniella Dart Tournament 1990 The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the

Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht — 3727622 ext 246; or Bjarne Rasmussen — 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals

THE final of the Rothman's Gold Cup Foothall Tournament organised by Salec United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting, Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.20 am

Zohr 11.56

Asr 2.49 pm

Maghreb 5.08

Isha 6.30

FRIDAY

Fajr 5.20 am

Zohr 11.56

Asr 2.50 pm

Maghreb 5.09

Isha 6.31

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SPORTS

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.45 Sabah Al Kher news

10.00 Magazine D'Actualite

10.30 Rejal Fil Masyada:

Arabic serial (part 4), starring Muna Abdul Ghani, Mohammed Redha, Raja Al Jaddawi

11.30 The Open University: Cultural programme

12.00 Sabah Al Kher news

12.15 Hewar Wa Nagham:

Local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hmaid and presented by Nervana Idrees

1.00 News Summary

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.20 Hadieh Dince:

Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.

2.00 The Friday Break:

Local programme

4.00 Al Hoh We Seneo.

5.00 Bereen: Cartoon serial

5.30 Cartoons

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements.

6.00 Kuwait Television in A Week:

Local programme

6.30 Kuwaii in A Week:

News programme

7.00 The Living Planet:

Cultural programme (part 2)

8.00 The Family Programme:

Local programme prepared by Tahani Al Burqali, and presented by Fatema Rashed.

8.45 Hadieh Al Osbo:

Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Al Jassar.

8.00 Kul Al Fonaa:

Local programme, prepared by Hassan Awara, presented by Rasha Majdi

8.30 Maa Al Islam:

Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Matkhoor

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Ghadan Tushreq Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 10)

10.45 Al Mushaghahat Fi Khatar:

Arabic feature film, starring Farouq Al Fishawi, Dalal Abdul Aziz, Samah Anwar

12.20 Thursday late night variety show

1.30 News summary

1.35 The World Today via Satellite

1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.45 Cartoon serial (part 2)

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 The Children Magazine:

Local children's programme

Al Andalus

White Ghost

Salmya

Licence to Kill

Al Hamra

Les Fugitives

Drive-in

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Aakhi Muqahala

Merck and Philip most admired companies

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): America's two most admired corporations are its biggest maker of pharmaceuticals and its largest producer of cigarettes.

For Merck and Co., it was the fourth consecutive year the drug maker has topped the magazine's ranking of the most admired large companies in the United States.

Philip Morris Cos., the world's biggest consumer products company with a stable of brands that includes Marlboro cigarettes and Kraft Foods, improved to the No. 2 position from fourth last year.

The two companies stood out in a ranking of 305 companies based on a survey of more than 8,000 directors, the magazine said. The companies were rated in the specific categories.

The biggest casualty on this year's list was Exxon Corp., which plummeted to No. 110. It was ranked sixth last year, before the Alaskan oil spill.

Philip Morris finished a close second and was cited as the best company in terms of its quality of management and its value as a long-term investment. The company's shares give investors an average total return of 30.1 per cent a year from 1979 to 1989, the magazine said.

Engineering giant for Gulf power show

CROMPTON Greaves, India's largest manufacturer of electrical engineering products, is among 19 first-time exhibitors lining up for Middle East Electricity '90 — the Gulf's premier showcase for the power industry.

The show, which opens next Monday at the Dubai World Trade Centre and lasts for four days, has attracted a record number of exhibitors with stand bookings virtual double those of 1988.

Crompton Greaves, which spent more than \$4 million on research and development last year, has worked its way into India's industrial records book by pioneering many of the country's engineering "firsts." These include, the first short circuit testing transformer to be built in the country, the first 220 KV transformer in the country, the first indigenous flame-proof motor to be used in the petroleum industry and 11 KV vacuum circuit breaker.

Investors meet

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuwa): A meeting will be held in Cairo tomorrow to prepare for the fifth conference of Arab businessmen and investors, according to a statement by the organisers here yesterday.

The Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guaranty Corporation, one of the organisers, said the Cairo meeting would determine the date and venue of the conference as well as its agenda topics.

It recalled that during the fourth conference of Arab businessmen and investors, held in Tunis in November 1988, the Egyptian delegation had offered to host the conference.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Arab League, the Inter-Arab Investment Guaranty Corporation and the Arab General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuwa): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.	
Selling	Billing
US dollar	0.29085
Sterling	0.48224
DM	0.1475
Fr. SFr.	0.19239
F.F.	0.05103
It.lira	0.0002323
Jap.yen	0.001962
Bah.din	0.77156
UAE Dir.	0.020249
S. riyal	0.07723
O. riyal	0.07987
O. riyal	0.75547
US dollar	0.39203
Sterling	0.48237
DM	0.1475
Fr. SFr.	0.19239
F.F.	0.05126
It.lira	0.0002323
Jap.yen	0.001962
Bah.din	0.77483
UAE Dir.	0.020249
S. riyal	0.07723
O. riyal	0.07987
O. riyal	0.75547

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuwa): Following are the average KD interest rates of local bank loans and overdrafts as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	Bld	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/8	8-3/8
1 year	8-1/8	8-3/8

EXCHANGERATES

Indian rupee	.017360
Sri Lankan rupee	.017370
Pakistani rupee	.017370
Bangladesh taka	.008970
US dollar	.291950
Pound sterling	.485729
UAE dirham	.174600
Deutsche mark	.020217
Japanese yen	.020217

Thatcher forges ahead with bigger, more complex sell-offs

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is forging ahead with bigger, more complex sell-offs of state-owned companies in a privatisation programme that has more than tripled the number of British shareholders.

Helped by the booming stock market of the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has raised £3 billion (\$5.3 billion) by selling such industries and services as steel, gas and telephones. Next in line is electricity.

Not all the flotation have been successful, and Thatcher has faced a barrage of accusations that she is giving away the nation's assets. Harold Macmillan, the late Prime Minister, once likened it to an impoverished family selling off its heirlooms.

But privatisation has become one of the most striking features of Thatcher's

decade in office, and a powerful weapon in her crusade to bury British socialism.

The prime minister, who believes companies perform better in the private sector, has overseen the transformation of stodgy nationalised industries into thriving competitive businesses. A prime example is British Airways PLC, or BA, which, as the US magazine Business Week wrote, has been turned from "bloody awful" into "bloody awesome."

Thatcher's aim isn't just to resuscitate ailing industries, but also to create an army of small shareholders who, having tasted the thrills of the stock market, won't ever want to re-elect the socialist Labour Party.

Ten million Britons now own shares — roughly as many as belong to trade unions — and 13 per cent of the adult

population has bought into the privatised companies, according to treasury figures.

Thatcher has used the sales' revenue to convert national budget deficits into surpluses and to cut the income tax rate to just 40 per cent for top earners and 25 per cent for the rest, a post-World War II low.

Hugo Young, political columnist for the left-leaning Guardian newspaper, praises Thatcher for reducing the role of government in British life.

"Whatever might be said about the way this was done," Young wrote in "One of us," his Thatcher biography, "the gentlemen in Whitehall no longer ran the gas industry or telephone industry."

Privatisation has been so successful, its supporters say, that Britain has become an exporter of privatisation

know-how, copied by countries as diverse as Japan, Turkey, France and Chile.

But critics say Thatcher has become too radical during her third consecutive term, taking her privatisation programme too far.

They say the government is selling Britons what they already own as taxpayers, or underpricing shares to ensure success.

Particularly contentious is the sale of water and electricity, which critics say should remain state-owned, at least for reasons of national security.

Moreover, they say, many privatised industries remain monopolies, insufficiently regulated to protect consumers.

But investors have bought shares enthusiastically and generally have

profited. A shareholder who bought 100 British Gas shares in December 1986 could have sold them at a 34 per cent profit as soon as they began trading, or could have kept them and be 76 per cent richer today, plus dividends. Sweeteners included paying for the shares in installments, bonus shares or vouchers for free gas.

Wales, was widely expected to fail, because the stock market nearly crashed last October and water seemed too vital a commodity to expose to market forces.

But the sale proved the second most popular privatisation after gas, drawing some 2.7 million applications for

shares.

Sell-offs must be approved by parliament, but the Conservatives' large majority virtually assures assent.

The government spent years and billions of pounds grooming its targets for the competitive world. It wrote off their debts, injected them with capital, closed plants and laid off workers.

The government, for instance, wrote off losses and spurred layoffs in British Steel Plc, once hailed by the Guinness Book of world records as running up the world's highest-ever corporate loss.

Pressures for mergers will grow

Future brighter for Gulf banks in 1990s

BAHRAIN, Jan 10, (Reuter): The 1990s look rosier for Gulf-based banks but bankers in the region say the market is still overcrowded and many of the miners are ill-equipped to deal with growing competition at home and abroad.

Business confidence will mend as long as the peace between Iran and Iraq holds and oil prices — the barometer of Gulf economies — don't collapse as they did in 1985-86, they say.

Local governments, still the region's main spenders, are hiring some planned industry projects out of mothballs.

But bankers say pressures for bank mergers will grow within the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) as smaller banks find the going getting tougher.

Few local banks have the depth or experience to compete outside the region, they add.

"There will be a continuous flow of industrial projects into the market for the next three to five years which will give local banks new opportunities for business," said Hassan Juman, general manager of National Bank of Bahrain.

"But I personally feel there is room for merging some of these banks, especially if we look at what's happening internationally — there are lots of duplications which cost money," he added.

GCC governments would not allow their own banks to go bankrupt but might enforce mergers, the bankers said.

Economists say domestic banks within the GCC — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates — have only just started to tap the immense potential of commercial and investment banking in the area.

Most have decided to target their own markets for growth, rather than risk the costly pitfalls of overseas expansion.

Consumer finance, Automated Teller Machines and traditional packaged and service products all have scope in a region where a preference for cash still leads to some boarding of bank notes.

Lack of even such basic investment outlets as stocks and bonds means billions of dollars will go on being channelled out of the region. Gulf economists say it will be years before alternatives are available at home.

But many banks in Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are setting up private banking departments in a bid to snatch the wealth-management business away from foreign firms.

It's a very tough market to break into because of the traditional relationship people have with Swiss and foreign bankers," National Bank of Kuwait assistant GM Ziad Takay said.

"Some wealthy Arab investors do not like the thought of their wealth being known or managed by others in the area — it's a private thing so it goes," said one Western banker.

Bankers say the expertise of

would fall to 8.9 per cent.

Defence expenditures would account for \$9.5 billion of the total foreign exchange outlays of \$119 billion over the next five years.

Iranian leaders have said the country must strengthen its defences while peace talks which began after the 1980-88 war with Iraq remained deadlocked.

The plan, which allows the use of up to \$27 billion of foreign credit, was approved after a month-long debate, Tehran radio reported. It must be ratified by the overseeing guardian council before becoming law.

The plan, as presented to parliament, aims for an ambitious average annual growth rate of eight per cent fuelled by \$8.3 billion of oil and gas revenue over the next five years.

Investments would total 27.6 trillion rials (\$39.4 billion at the official exchange rate) and unemployment would be cut to 14 per cent by creation of nearly two million new jobs.

The budget deficit, which was 5.1 per cent in the year to March 20, would all but disappear by 1994 and inflation, officially set at 28.5 per cent last year,

would fall to 8.9 per cent.

Iran tries to rebuild economy

NICOSIA, Jan 10, (Reuter): Iran's parliament yesterday approved a five-year development plan which is the centrepiece of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's programme to rebuild the economy after a decade of war and revolutionary change.

The plan, which allows the use of up to \$27 billion of foreign credit, was approved after a month-long debate, Tehran radio reported. It must be ratified by the overseeing guardian council before becoming law.

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Iran tries to rebuild economy

Development plan approved

Firemen march for better pay

PARIS, Jan 10, (AP): Dressed in full gear, their sirens wailing, several thousand French firefighters marched through Paris yesterday to demand better pay and increased forces.

As frequently occurs in French labour protests, quarreling unions conducted separate marches.

The communist-led General Com-

federation of Labour drew about 800

demonstrators to its morning protest starting at the place De La Bastille in eastern Paris.

In the afternoon, about 3,000

firefighters, a few dressed in colour-

old-time Regalia, rallied under the banners of five separate unions near the Invalides on the left bank.

Firefighters from Paris and Mar-

seille, all subject to military regula-

tions and answerable to the defense ministry, were also involved. The more than 300 volunteers, firefighters who operate in rural areas were not involved.

In the afternoon, about 3,000

UK passports will become worthless once China takes over

Hong Kong ethnic minorities facing statelessness

HONG KONG (UPI): Kewalram Sital has considered himself a Briton since he traded his Indian nationality for a British passport almost 30 years ago. But when China regains control of Hong Kong in 1997, he may become stateless.

The 57-year-old businessman is one of some 6,000 ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, mostly Indians, now holding dependent territory passports, which will be recognised solely as travel documents in Hong Kong after 1997.

"The passports we are holding will become worthless in 1997," Sital said. "They carry no right of abode, no nationality. They are meaningless."

Nearly all of Hong Kong's 5.7 million residents are ethnic Chinese and will automatically be given Chinese nationality after the 1997 transition. Sital said. "They carry no right of abode, no nationality. They are meaningless."

Nearly all of Hong Kong's 5.7 million residents are ethnic Chinese and will automatically be given Chinese nationality after the 1997 transition. But Beijing has said it will not grant Chinese citizenship or the right of abode in Hong Kong to non-Chinese.

Despite pledges from British Minister Margaret Thatcher to provide some kind of statehood for the group, Britain did not

include a special scheme for minorities in its recently announced nationality package.

The controversial package is designed to grant full United Kingdom citizenship to a total of about 250,000 of the colony's 3.5 million holders of British overseas passports.

The citizenship would be awarded to 50,000 heads of households in Hong Kong and their families, according to a point system ranking each applicant's importance in the colony.

Sital estimated only about 50 Indians would receive citizenship through the programme, designed to give the people who make Hong Kong run the confidence to

stay in the colony after 1997.

The nationality announcement sparked discontent among many Hong Kong leaders who had demanded Britain grant full citizenship to all the colony's British overseas passport holders. People in the Indian community say any British plans for a separate citizenship package for them were shelved to appease Hong Kong's ethnic Chinese.

"The Indian community is responsible for 10 per cent of Hong Kong's exports," Sital said. "Some companies have been here for three generations, yet after faithfully serving the British empire for so long, they do this to us. It is most regrettable."

Indian commissioner F K Arora said although India sympathises with the group it felt no responsibility to offer automatic Indian nationality.

"Under our laws, once someone takes the nationality of another country, he must renounce his Indian citizenship," Arora said. "If he wants to get his Indian statehood back, he can live in India for five years under a long-term visa then apply for citizenship."

"But the government would be under no obligation to approve the application. Britain should take them; they are her responsibility."

Indian community leaders say talks with mainland officials over right of abode in

Hong Kong for the group after 1997 have proved fruitless.

"They invited us all out to lunch and treated us very nicely," one said. "But they said that we were Britain's problem and told us not to involve them."

Sital has flown to the United Kingdom seven times since 1985 to lobby British lawmakers for the colony's Indian community.

He feels the chances are slim that Hong Kong's minorities will gain the right of abode in the United Kingdom, where tales of hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong Chinese seeking refuge after 1997 have alarmed a population not known for welcoming immigrants.

Despite Jaya Bachchan's efforts to improve

Children's films in a sorry state

By Firoze Rangooswalla

IN a country which produces an average of 800 films every year, there are hardly ten films made specially for the enjoyment and proper growth of children. The usual arguments are that there is no separate audience of kids. Parents don't like to go along and see these movies. There are no distributors to buy and no theatres to show these films. Perhaps, even our children have become so adulterated and desensitized by commercial films that they think children's films to be childish.

So many ways can be found to expose children to Indian and international films meant for them. Chocolate and biscuit companies can sponsor morning or noon shows. Social service bodies and cultural busy-bodies can take some trouble to organise them. On TV, a special children's hour should be kept apart, as it can show short films too. Ultimately it's the responsibility of the Children's Film Society, to produce many such films and convert halls into temporary theatres, with mobile projectors, for shows on holidays and weekends. These films can also be put on video.

The society got a shot-in-the-arm when Jaya (Bhadruri) Bachchan, the popular "Guddi" of the screen, took over as their person. Over past several years, bureaucrats had made a mess of it for personal gains. People like V. Shantaram, Sal Paranjpe, Kamini Kaushal, Amol Palekar could not do much with it and ended up with controversies and resignations. Professional directors taking up its assignments adopted a careless approach, taking them as inferior films. Children's cinema became a Cinderella, without a prince charming coming up.

Jaya Bachchan made a bang by holding an international children's film festival to go with the late Pandit Nehru's birth centenary. Chacha Nehru was a lover of children. In fact he had spurred this movement and personally motivated producers K.A. Abbas, Kadar Sharma, V. Shantaram, Raj Kapoor etc. to do films for children, which had turned out to be good and award-winning. But then the movement withered, with the C.F.S.I. becoming a white elephant and now, Jaya has also resigned after announcing big plans.

Even Jaya had not been able to get at least four features and shorts made every year or any other notable films produced, though she said: "We have big plans. I cannot give out the names. It will happen in the natural course. But we have good film makers inquiring and wanting to make films for us."

If this had been done earlier, at least two or three excellent films by noted directors, could have been India's entries at the festival, along with 125 films from other countries. Even the main competition section had only four films from India. The inaugural film was an Indo-Mauritius co-production, "Ankur, Marina Aur Kahntar".

A wholly Indian film would have made a difference. There were three juries, including one chaired by South's Balu Mahendra and another consisting only of children themselves. Finally Greek, Czech and Korean films won top awards, while the Indian entry "Boy & Crocodile" by R. Whitaker got a special prize and best child actor award.

Five children had specially invited from each Indian region at the festival's expense, with Indian Airlines and Railways extending help. But it was a corny idea to call the child stars

of the past, like Tabassum, Master Mayur, Alankar, Sarika, Neetu Singh etc. to attend the inauguration. This is because most of today's stars have been popular child stars once. But they have merely acted like puppets and at times so precocious that they put adults to shame. Jaya herself started her career as a child with Satyajit Ray.

Jaya's enthusiasm over the festival (sixth in India) had spilled over in her talk: "I always wanted to do some good for our children. In the C.F.S.I. it is difficult, there are many stumbling blocks, yet something has been set afoot and we are on the right track. Our own children's films may not be technically excellent, but the themes are good... like 'Boy & Crocodile', where a boy saves a croc from the hands of villagers who feared it. In other countries, the technical results are superb but the themes are so irrelevant and unsentimental. I would like to make an ideal children's film myself and C.F.S.I. will expand also to make films for all young people." Then why did Jaya give up the post?

One cannot agree with Jaya's views on kids seeing violence, when she says that there is nothing wrong in it, as present society and media are full of it and children have to grow with it. Perhaps she has somebody in mind who acts in violent movies. She also finds nothing wrong in parents and kids seeing the same commercial films, with the strange argument: "intelligence of today's children should not be under-estimated".

Actually, everyone owes a social duty to children and they must promote the movement.

Star slips

Kabir Bedi Pooja Bedi is a sensible girl. But Aditiya thought her to be a fool. He played with her emotions. He wanted to row in two boats. When he was told to tread a single route, he quietly went back to his wife Zarina.

Waheeda Rehman: I see most of the new films. But they all look the same. They seem to be made in a hurry. The stars rush up the work and do three shifts. So how can there be any stability?

Sangeeta Bijlani: Modelling is more difficult. We have to rely only on expressions, without dialogue, to sell a product. So transition to acting is easier. A model can become an easy and more successful actress to sell a film.

Poor Deepak Parashar was pulled out of the deep freeze to be the chief guest at a fashion show in Poona. The organisers were so erratic that they did not even catch his name properly and kept calling him Deepak Prasad throughout the show. While he was reeling under his new name, the office-bearers pulled out

another gaffe. They called him the "former Miss India". Since boys and girls were involved in the present contest and since Deepak's entity has been a matter of controversy in the gossip press, it became more embarrassing. And all that poor Deepak could do was to keep smiling throughout, though swearing under the lips never to go to small towns.

Star interview

Sunny Deol
Sunny Deol has always kept his brothers and sisters, as if they had a film life and a personal life of their own. That's at least better than what Farha did with Sibling Taboo. But recent facts have thrown a spanner in Jaya's wheel. Her sister Soundarya got trapped in a case of economic crime because Jaya had been stacking got trapped in a case of economic crime because Jaya had been stacking away black money in her name. Of course they can always pay the fine and get away but there is a jail sentence too. If the appeal fails and the poor woman goes to jail, then Jaya will have indeed much to under-estimate.

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A. I don't know. It is all God's grace. My career has always been like that. The line rises, then falls steeply and then rises again. Q. The recent "Tridev" has done you a lot of good? A. Yes, but it was followed by "Nigahen" not running well. Anyhow we never expected it to be another "Nagina". But at least it could have gone two weeks. Anyway this keeps happening. We put so much into "Yateem" and yet the result was almost zero. It was our own production. Then "Paap Ki Dunia" clicked and I popped up again. Q. Which were the other flops that hurt you?

A. Well, "Sultana", "Ram Avtaar", "Vardi", "Joshi-ley". If they had run, things would have been quite different. Q. You mean you don't have enough films? A. Oh no. I have more than the

required twelve. "Chaalbaaz", "Ghayal", "Aflatoon", "Krooh", "Aaj ka Ghulam", "Yoddha", "Shankar", "Visnu Devaa", "Aag Ka Gola", "Farz Apna Apna", "Majboor", "Guru Chela", "Narsimha", "Gunah", "Champioo", "Izzat ki Roli", "Veera" etc. Q. And "Tridev" must have benefited you even more? A. No, the star ceiling comes in the way. I can't have more than a dozen films at a time. So some will have to wait. Even our home production "Ghayal" has been delayed. People don't realise that. They think stars go slow only on other producers' films. But yes, "Tridev" has brought a lot of personal fan following. That benefit is there. Q. Are you becoming more popular than papa Dharm? A. For heaven's sake no, don't

say that. Dharmji is great in his way. Recently we had gone abroad for shows. They recognised and applauded me. But for papa there was a regular craze. Even he was taken by surprise. Q. How do you visualise your future? Any ambitions? A. Work will go on, so long as films are made. I have made enough name to last at least for a few more years. Ambitions? Yes, I would love to play exciting unusual roles, as done by Geet Wilder, Dustin Hoffman and the earlier Omar Sharif. Q. Life on the home front? A. My wife Pooja understands me and also the peculiar demands made by an actor's life. We have no differences. She ignores rumours. I have stopped caring also about being linked with a particular actress. It is like making mountains out of mole-hills.



The ruined castle of Pendragon as it was when it was bought by Frankland in 1963.
(Reuter wirephoto)

Owner of Pendragon castle stakes claim King Arthur's birthplace

RAVENSTONEDALE, England (Reuters): A ruined castle in the windswept fells of northern England may mark the birthplace of King Arthur, its owner believes.

Farmer Raven Frankland has spent nearly 30 years painstakingly restoring Pendragon castle since buying it at auction for a bargain price in 1963.

Amid the tangle of fact and myth surrounding Arthur, he believes Pendragon's claim to the legend is as strong as anywhere else's.

"It's the legendary home of Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur," Frankland said. "I think it's the only place that claims to be the residence of Arthur's father."

Sheep graze on the banks of the River Eden beside the ruined walls of present-day Pendragon, set in the shadow of steep fells in the northern county of Cumbria.

The remains date from around 1170, when a Norman castle was built on this spot. But Frankland believes the artificial mound on which it stands dates from Roman times, when it may have served as a signal station.

He thinks the ancient British King Uther Pendragon may have built his own wooden residence on the existing mound after the Romans withdrew from Britain in the fifth century.

Hard evidence of an Arthurian connection is scarce. But the fact that the Norman castle retained the name Pendragon bears witness to the strength of the legend, as does the local folklore associated with the castle.

One local rhyme, first recorded in the 17th century, suggests Uther may have tried unsuc-

cessfully to divert the nearby River Eden to flow into the castle moat.

"Let Uther Pendragon do what he can. Eden will run where Eden ran."

Scholars have worked for centuries to uncover the truth about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Many places, especially in Cornwall and other parts of southwest England, claim links with his exploits.

Arthur may have been a general who fought successful battles against the invading Saxons from the east all the way up and down the western side of the country," Frankland said.

"The chances are extremely slim but of course it doesn't do to say that they're nil. It would only be if something of precious metal or bronze were to be lost.. timber, leather, iron all disappear, especially in this wet climate," he said.

Frankland, a farmer and local councilor who works on the castle in his spare time, is well used to journalists' questions about the chances of unearthing Excalibur, Arthur's famous sword, or other finds that would substantiate the legend.

"The chances are extremely slim but of course it doesn't do to say that they're nil. It would only be if something of precious metal or bronze were to be lost.. timber, leather, iron all disappear, especially in this wet climate," he said.

Frankland, whose father was a passionate Arthurian enthusiast, jumped at the chance to buy Pendragon when it came up for auction in 1963. He paid just £52 (S\$86).

The castle is closed to the public, but scholars and historians visit regularly, as do less welcome guests.

"We were worried by the fact that the tourist authorities put out a statement that

there was a secret room with buried treasure, which of course is absolute nonsense, and we did find that in the unopened vault somebody had been quarrying away the wall to try to get in," Frankland said.

Normal barrel vaults, stone arches and large portions of the walls still stand, despite centuries of plundering when the castle was used as a source of stone for local buildings.

Happy birthday!



Samyukta Bhowmick turned 9 on January 8



Abhinav Malhotra turns 8 on January 14



Bini Sara George turns 10 today, January 11



Goushiya Abdul Ganim turns 8 today, January 11



Anna Mendonca turns 4 on January 13



Faraz Siddiqui turns 5 on January 11



Punet Singh Chahda turns 5 on January 13



Mirza Baig on December 21

Variety

Oldest living person record puzzles

NEW YORK, (AP): Of all the feats in the Guinness Book of World Records, being the "oldest living person" is perhaps the most tantalizing and the most open to dispute.

"No single subject is more obscured by vanity, deceit, falsehood and deliberate fraud than the extremes of human longevity," the Guinness editors assert, noting hundreds of claims of people over 100 and some, "insulting to the intelligence," of people living into their third centuries.

Yet few claims are harder to prove than extreme longevity — after all, no one else who's alive today was alive when the oldest old were born.

That is true of Carrie White of Palatka, Florida, and Jackson Pollock of Milledgeville, Georgia. The 1990 Guinness book recognizes Miss White as the oldest at 115. But since that book went to press, Pollock has emerged with the claim that he is 123. Guinness is still awaiting proof.

In Carrie White's case, there is fairly persuasive evidence she is 115; the search for Pollock's past is fascinating but as yet inconclusive.

Miss White lives at the Putnam Memorial Nursing Home, where she likes to attend church and sing sessions. She is in good health, though she doesn't seem to understand the fuss over her age and refuses to talk about her past.

Hers is not a happy story, from what little is known. She is said to have been born Nov. 18, 1874, in Gadsden County, Florida.

As a young woman, she married John White, who was either a blacksmith or a farmer, and on the day after her 35th birthday, in 1909, he committed her to the Florida State Hospital for the mentally ill at Chattahoochee. Her diagnosis was "post-tuberculosis psychosis," and she remained there until she was, according to her records, 110.

Miss White's claim to longevity rests mainly on her medical records, which are unusual since they span so much of her life. The only possibility for fraud would be if she or her husband had lied about her age when she was committed — a possibility, certainly, but one Guinness considers unlikely.

There is no similar documentation for Jackson Pollock's life. Pollock, a tall, gangly man with a taste for Prince Albert tobacco,

Not a big deal for Jackson Pollock

Going strong at '123'

MILLEDGEVILLE, Georgia, (AP): It's hard to know what to expect when you're being ushered into a hospital ward to meet the self-proclaimed oldest man in the world.

You fear he'll be in worse shape than the other patients, that you'll be intruding.

Nope.

Jackson Pollock, who claims to be 123, is 6-foot-9 (2.05 metres) tall, with cottony white hair. He's a healthy man, especially for someone who's 123. He likes starched shirts, hearty breakfasts and smoking a pipe, detests the hospital where he lives and chats happily with people who stop by to see him.

He even has his jokes down pat.

How old are you, Mr. Pollock?

"I'm 510 now," he says.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists Carrie White of Palatka, Florida, as the "oldest living person," at 115. Pollock insists he's eight years older.

says he was born Christmas Day 1866, served in the Spanish-American war and World War I and loaded mail and checked railroad baggage in Cleveland and New York.

He has lived in the Central State Hospital in Milledgeville since 1972.

Pollock's claim is based almost solely on his own account; Guinness, for now, remains doubtful, said editor Donald McFarlan.

The book lists Shigechiyo Izumi of Japan as the person who lived to the oldest age ever documented — 120 years, 237 days, based on census records.

But even that documentation isn't good enough for some scientists, who say it's just too unlikely that a human being could live that long.

"I don't know a single serious gerontologist in the world who believes these claims of people who are over 115," said Dr. Leonard Hayflick, professor of anatomy at the University of California at San Francisco. "As

far as we know, the human lifespan... has not changed in the past 100,000 years."

From time to time, claims have surfaced of extraordinary groups of people who have lived well into their 130s, 140s, 150s and higher. One such group was said to live in the Caucasus mountains of the Soviet Union; another in a remote area of Ecuador. In each case, experts say, the claims proved to be lies. The motives vary, but include draft dodging, national pride, tourism and simple boastfulness.

Scientists say humans just aren't built to last that long, and they dismiss the notion that the human lifespan is getting longer.

The world's oldest twins, Allie Hill and Maggie Lambeth of Denton, North Carolina, are both ill and won't be able to celebrate their 106th birthday anniversary together on Saturday.

Mrs. Hill is in critical condition, having apparently suffered a stroke in December, according

Join the dots



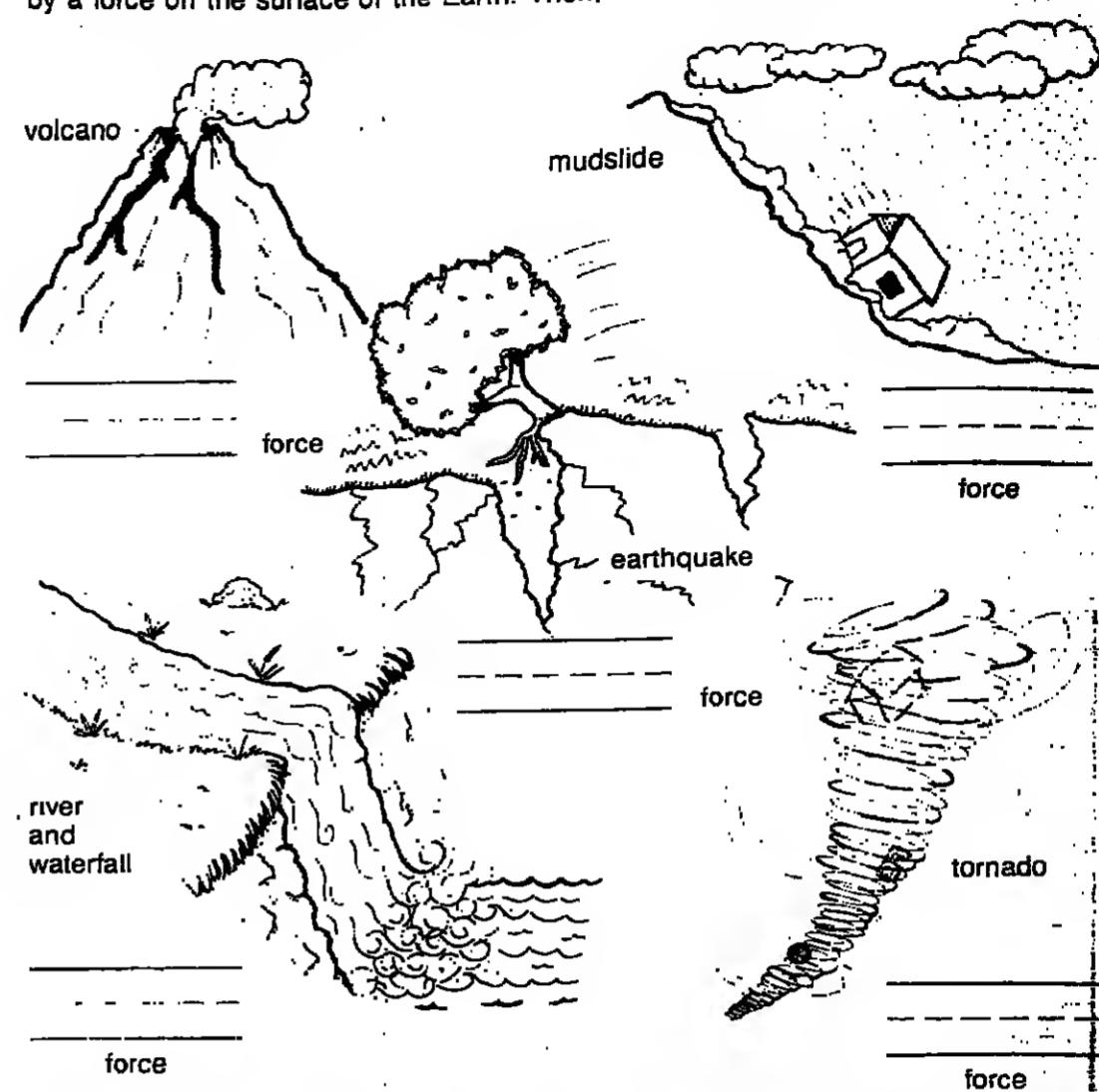
What is Leena wrapping?

Zahed M. Ali

How Does The Earth Change?

The Earth is always changing. Forces inside the Earth make it change. Forces on the surface of the Earth make it change, too.

Look at each picture. Write inside if you think the change is caused by a force inside the Earth. Write **surface** if you think the change is caused by a force on the surface of the Earth. Then, color the pictures.



Just for laughs!

What did Batman's mother say when she wanted to call him for lunch? (Sing) "Dinner-dinner-dinner-dinner-dinner-dinner, BAT-MAN!"

What do you eat somewhere over the rainbow? Way up pie. (Way up high.)

What goes tick-tick woof-woof? A watchdog.



Hippo-sized smooch

Right in the middle of a cold snap, these two hippopotamuses at Madrid's zoo seem to have early spring fever on a cold morning. After a

Unlikely to show up on the road

Electric cars on the test track

DETROIT, (Reuters): The electric car is out of the laboratory and on the test track, but it's not likely to show up on the road just yet, industry executives say.

The chairman of Ford Motor Co. has driven one and likes it. General Motor Corp. has built one that rivals petrol-powered vehicles. Chrysler Corp. is also working on an electric vehicle.

But the American cars and vans in showrooms during the 1990s will probably still rely heavily on the same internal combustion technology used since the invention of the automobile.

GM revived interest in the concept last week when it unveiled the Impact, a car capable of reaching speeds of 160 kph (100 mph) on an 1,800 kg (870-pound) battery pack. It beat a Mazda Miata sports car in a zero-to-95 kph (zero-to-60 mph) acceleration test, the company said.

However, despite the potential energy and clean air benefits, GM said it had no plans to mass market the vehicle.

One problem is that the amount of electricity needed to recharge the batteries of a mass-produced electric car could lead to air pollution problems from coal-fired power plants that would rival the smog troubles

generated by conventional cars.

GM chairman Roger Smith suggested that a primary source of clean energy will have to be found before the car can be made practical.

"I think we'll still play around with the electric car through the 1990s," said Neil Walling, director of advanced and international designs for Chrysler, which has been working with the city of Los Angeles on an electric vehicle.

He said the industry may be able to mass produce such a vehicle by the end of the decade but it may take incentives such as tax breaks, special parking and vehicle lanes for electric cars to lure the consumers.

Ford chairman Donald Petersen told reporters that his company has developed an electric caravan designed for city delivery use.

"I'm extraordinarily pleased with the progress they (Ford engineers) are making. I think they have come to new levels in terms of efficiency of transmitting electric power to the vehicle," he said.

"I drove it on test track. It's a very easy car to drive... it's something that should be worked on. We are working on it. We see it having its first real application for city delivery," Petersen said.

If there are changes in basic technology in the nifing, one may be the introduction of the two-stroke engine into cars built and sold in the United States.

The engine — which fires twice as fast as the traditional four-stroke engine and thus can deliver the same power in half the engine space — has been an outcast in this country because of the air pollution it produces.

However, recent changes in technology may correct that. The consumer probably won't notice much difference, Walling said, except that two-stroke engine cars will have a storage compartment in both front and back because the engine takes up so little room.

Many of the manufacturers showing their vehicles at the North American international auto show in Detroit last week said the cars of the 1990s will be shaped by changes in technology that will assure quality.

Ford said one redesigned plant producing its Escort model will use nearly 100 per cent automation for body welding, with sensitive electronic monitors that shut the line down if a misalignment is detected.

If the experimental cars being shown at the show give any clue to the future, it is one with more gadgets and racy, sports-style designs.

Golfing Secret Message



659	763	953	738
-131	-101	-140	-304
a	d	e	f
973	752	947	628
-512	-610	-612	-104
g	h	i	j
783	968	938	675
-510	-214	-105	-251
n	o	r	s
953	867	986	
-111	-132	-143	
t	u	y	

Find the answers to the problems above. Each sum has a letter under it. Match these answers and letters to the boxes below. Write the letter matching each sum in the given box. What is the golfing secret message?

335		461	754	524	434	813	662
813	335	461	142	842	813	813	273
142	754	524	813	424		754	273
424	528	842	735	833	662	528	843

Young poet

Life

Life is tough,
And full of worries
Life is swift
And in great hurry

Hours run like minutes,
In these days
But "Whn cares for time"
Some people say

For teenagers life is full of activities and fun,
For warriors life is full of missiles and guns,
And for parents life is full of daughters and sons

For everyone life is not the same;
Cause, not everybody considers life as a game.
For some people who are deaf, blind and lame.
Life feels to them like a curse or a shame.

But don't be sad for such a thing everyday,
Think about those who loose their lives in a sudden day,
And when you think of the gifts you still have,
Then I guess your sorrows will go away.

Souhair Butt.

Friends

Friends who love you,
Friends who care,
Are not found in this world, everywhere.

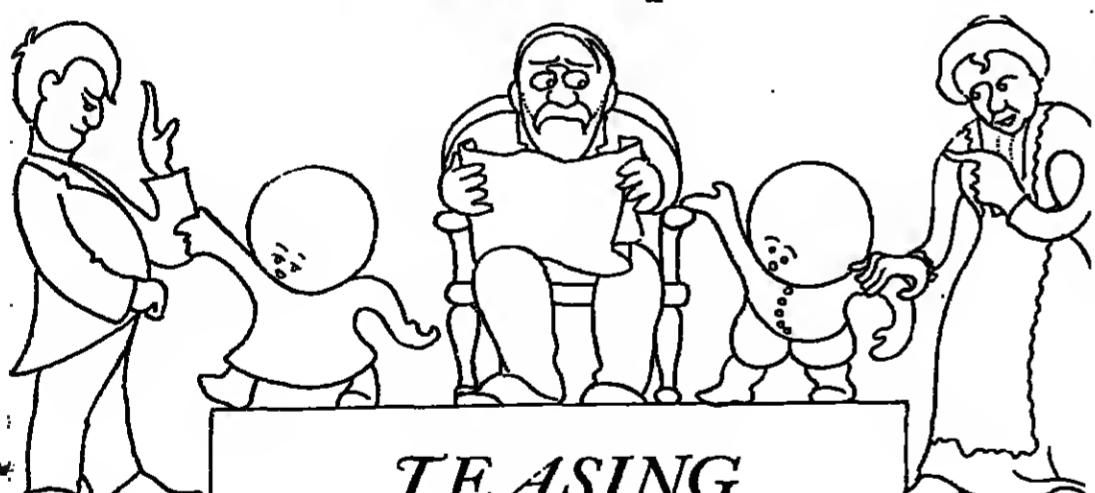
Friends are meant to help each other,
Friends can be like sisters and brothers.
True friends are so rare and precious,
So lovely and gracious.

And when you are lonely and sad,
Friends are the ones to cheer you up
And make you glad

But what's the use, if you don't trust a friend
Then I guess, you'll have a broken heart that will never mend

Souhair Butt.

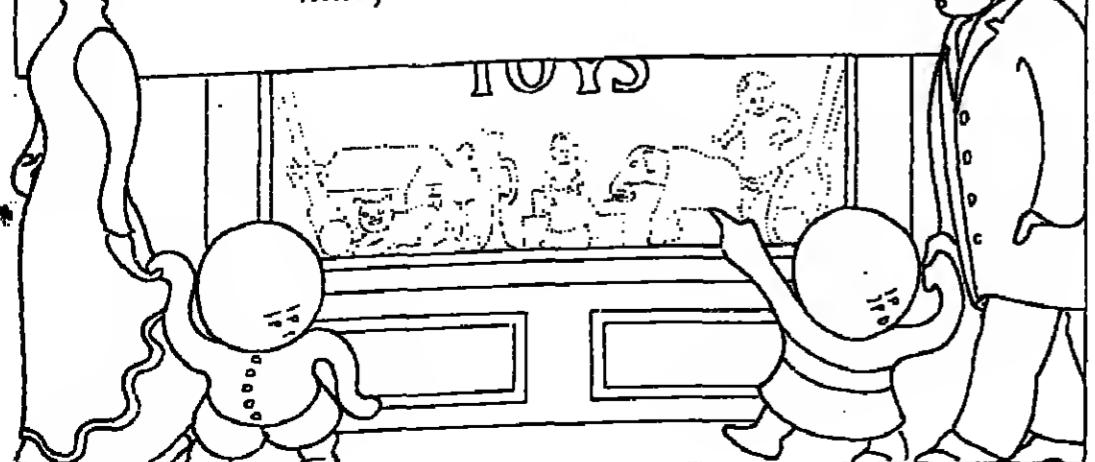
The Goops



TEASING

TEASE to linger longer when your mother bids you go;
Tease to have a penny when your father answers, "No!"
Tease to have a story when your uncle doesn't please;
That's the way to be a Goop—tease, tease, tease!

Hint about the carriage when there's only room for three;
Hint about the toys you like and every doll you see;
Hint about the candy, say you're fond
of peppermint;
That's the way to be a Goop—hint,
hint, hint!



Amazing facts

About people

The country with the most television sets in the world is the tiny Pacific island of Guam, where there are 700 sets for every 1000 people. Monaco, on the edge of the Mediterranean, is the only country with more telephones than people there are 1071 for every 1000 of the population.

Slaves in ancient Rome had a life expectancy of only 17-1/2 years.

King George I of England was unable to speak English — because he was German.

During the 9th century, the Danes occupying Ireland started a "nose tax" of one ounce of gold per household. Non-payers had their noses slit.

Dr James Barry, a general in the British Army Medical Corps, was a woman — but this was not discovered until she died in 1865.

At the age of 30, Al Capone had been in control of organized crime in Chicago for four years, and his income had reached \$5,000,000. He was finally jailed for not paying his taxes.

THE first man to fly under Westminster Bridge in London was F.K. McClean, who also flew between the upper and lower parts of Tower Bridge, and all the bridges in between, in 1912. When he landed on the river at Westminster, he was instructed by the police to move along. Unfortunately, the plane was damaged during take-off, and had to be removed by road.

The Roman emperor Caligula's real name was Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus — Caligula was a nickname that meant "little boots". One of the mad emperor's more bizarre decrees was that his favourite horse, Incitatus, be made a consul of Rome.

In 1971, 29 students from a London college managed to stand on top of a Post Office pillar box.

The tallest recorded human being was Robert Wadlow, who died in the USA at the age of 22 having reached 2.27m (8ft 11in) in height. The tallest groups of people in the world are found in central Africa, where the average height of some tribes exceeds 1.83m (6ft).

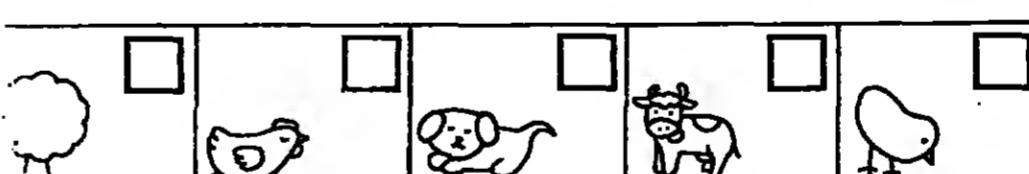
Captain William Bligh didn't only have trouble as captain of the ship Bounty. When he became governor of New South Wales in Australia, local army officers rebelled against him.



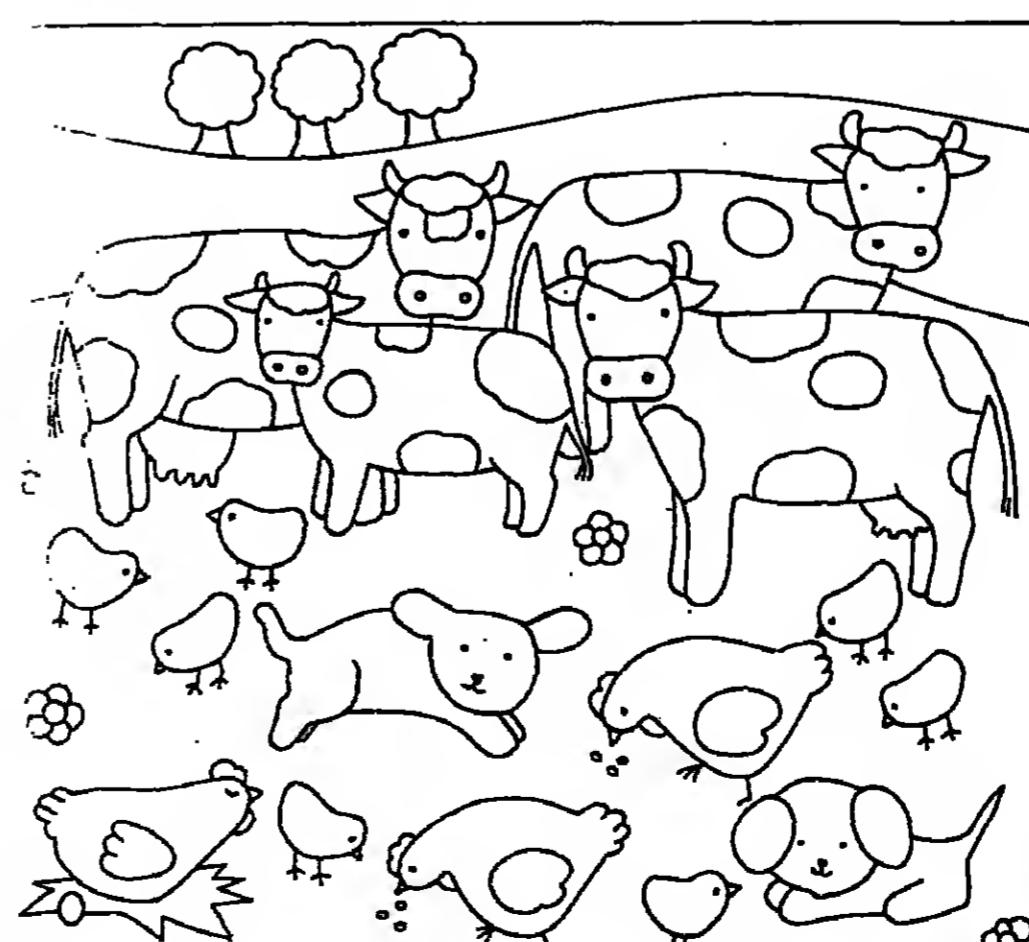
The notorious highwayman Claude Duval used to enjoy a dance with any ladies travelling in the coaches he held up!

On the farm

Count the number of trees and animals in the large picture, and write the answers in the small boxes.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Word search

NASHVILLE MUSIC

ART	HATS
BANJO	JUG
BARN DANCE	LEGEND
BOOTS	MICROPHONE
CONCERT	POPULAR
FIDDLE	RADIO
FOLK songs	SHOW
FULL SKIRT	SING
FUN	SQUARE DANCE
GOSPEL	STARS
QUEST	
GUITAR	

M	I	C	R	O	P	H	O	N	E	B	B	F
G	T	H	B	C	O	N	C	E	T	U	U	L
B	B	R	E	G	P	F	F	O	N	L	L	N
N	V	C	A	G	U	H	N	I	H	V	C	L
E	R	T	N	L	L	M	D	S	T	A	H	S
C	B	I	O	O	A	A	V	T	H	N	L	K
N	S	Q	U	A	R	E	D	A	N	C	E	I
A	A	H	G	U	I	T	A	R	H	N	G	R
D	D	B	O	O	T	S	H	S	U	E	T	
N	B	G	J	W	E	E	K	B	J	N	N	R
R	N	N	J	Y	H	U	L	H	G	D	D	E
A	A	F	V	H	Y	G	O	S	P	E	L	L
B	B	E	L	D	D	I	F	T	R	D	S	A

First and last

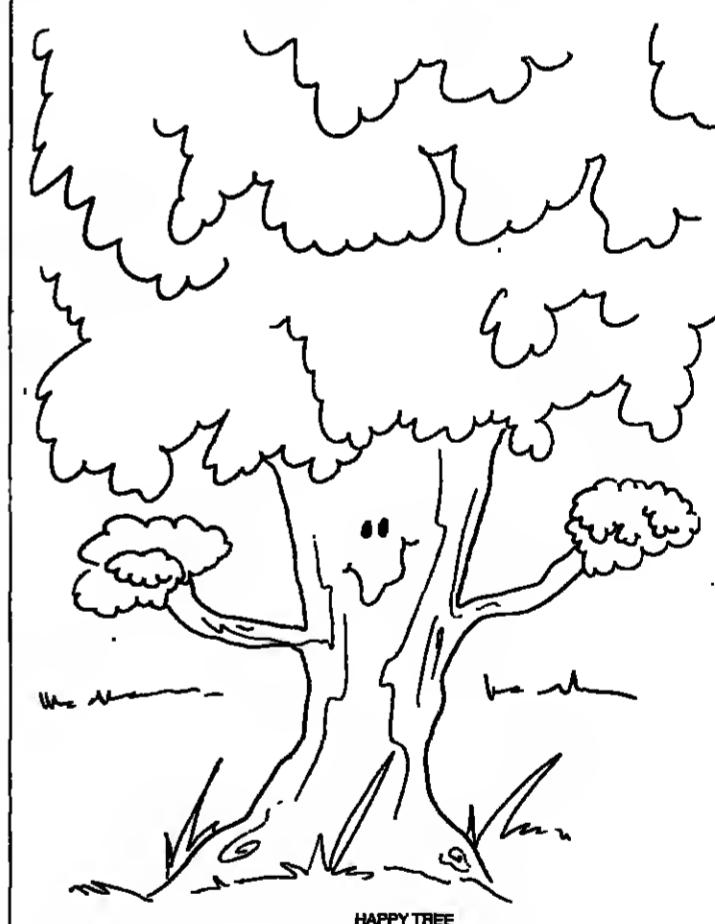
The Surrey Iron Railway became the world's first freight railway in 1803.

Proverb: "Think first and speak afterwards".

The first hitch-hikers rode on horseback for part of their journey, two travellers taking it in turns to ride the horse.

The world's first underground city railway ran from Bishop's Gate to Farringdon in London and went into service in 1863.

Colour Timing



HAPPY TREE

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?

Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?

Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Hobbies: _____

Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES

Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings, please send within a week before the special date

Your
favourite
most
recent
picture
(4x6)

BLONDIE By Dean Young & Greg Drake



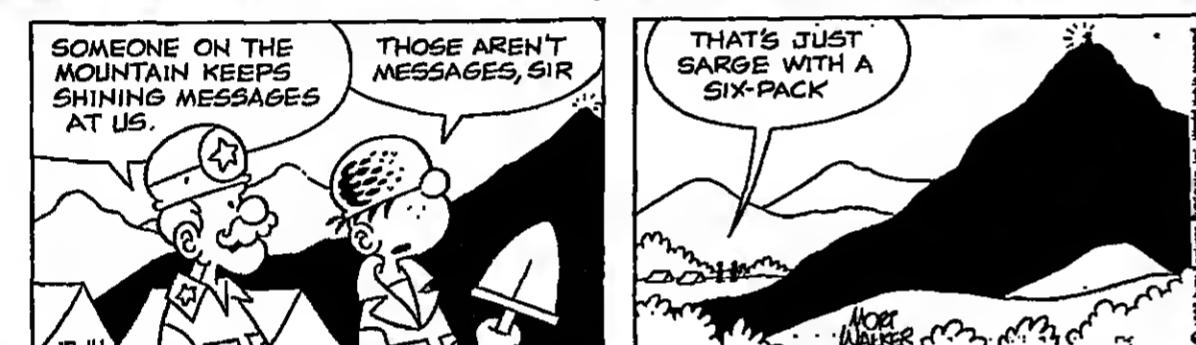
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dik Browne



GRANMA COMMIE By Don Estes



BETTY BAILLY By Mo Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brian Parker & John Hart



ANDY CAPP



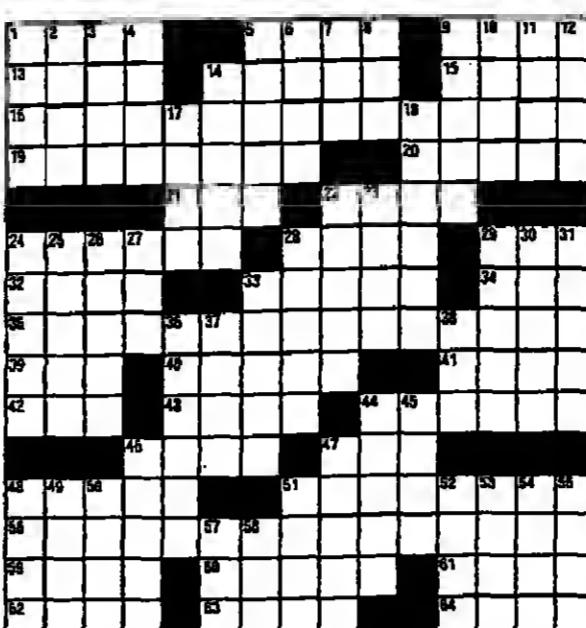
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN By G. Foster & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WATCH FOR THE SNAKE IN THE GRASS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 3
♥ A 8 3
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ Q 10 4

WEST

♦ J 9 5 2
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ A J 9
♣ 8 3

EAST

♦ K 8 7 4
♥ K Q 5 4 2
♦ 7
♣ 9 7 6

SOUTH

♦ 10 6
♥ 6
♦ K 8 6 4 3
♣ A K J 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
5 ♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦
Here's a hand to test your dummy play. Cover the East-West hands with your thumbs and decide how you would play five diamonds after the lead of the jack of hearts.

Your bidding has been excellent. Partner's jump to four diamonds showed a maximum two no trump response and a good fit, but not even that could excite you. With such a shabby trump suit, you have no aspirations beyond game.

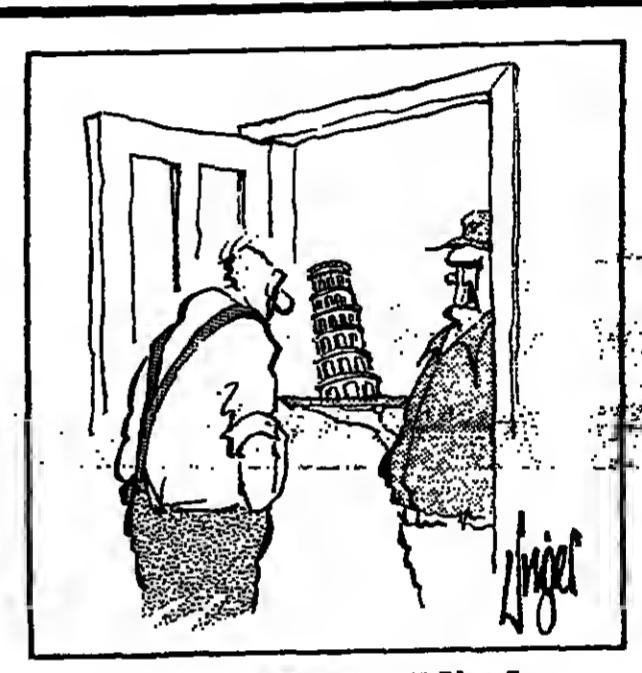
When dummy comes down, you like what you see. You have play for your contract even if you have to lose two trump tricks, since you can score three trump tricks, five clubs, one in each major suit and a spade ruff in dummy after taking two diamonds on the clubs.

However, you could be in trouble if you win the ace of hearts and lead a diamond to your king. Suppose that West wins the ace and switches to a spade. If you finesse and it loses, or if you ruse with the ace, your contract will hinge on not losing a second trump trick.

To counter the distribution that threatens your contract, you should plan to lose your trump tricks to the safe hand—in this case, East. After winning the ace of hearts come to hand (the safest way is with a heart ruff) and lead a trump. If West follows with a low trump, finesse the ten! If that loses to the jack, East cannot attack spades profitably. Win any return, drive out the ace of trumps, win the ace of spades if necessary, draw the last trump and run your clubs. If the ten of diamonds wins, continue as above. It's only fitting that, on the actual distribution, your thoughtful play is rewarded with an overtrick.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BABY	SCARE	CAMP
ALIEE	ALPEN	AREA
SUGARBUCK	VALLEY	
HMS ALBEE	BLOTS	
LIEB	ALOE	
DEBUSSY	TORRENT	
ARETE	FEST	MAJ
RISE	MAIOS	HEIR
ECO	FAST	SIEVE
SAMSONS	ALTERED	
TREE	TAOS	
SHOOT	SETIN	TEE
MARTHAS	VINEYARD	
OISE	LOIRE	ABJD
GROS	ARLIES	ZANY

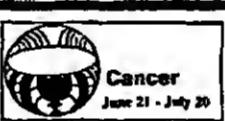


"You ordered a small Pisa."

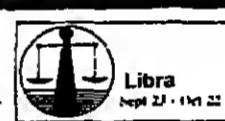
YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19



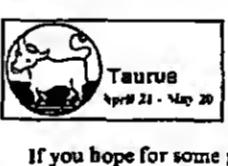
Cancer
June 21 - July 20



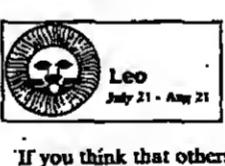
Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



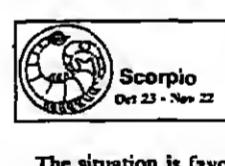
Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19



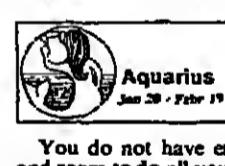
Taurus
April 21 - May 20



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 20



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

If you hope for some good luck you may have a long time to wait. You should not be late for an appointment and must be at the right place too. Try to ensure others receive good value from you. Be generous.

You should try to get out of the habit of putting things anywhere and then not being able to find them. This is not better than any other time for gambling. Spend no more than you can afford. Be sensible.

You will have to work hard if you want to meet your commitments.

And you must do all you can to keep a promise. Avoid relying on guesswork and do not depend on luck. Be fair.

You are on the right track but others will not think so. Stick to your principles and do not run out of patience. Make sure you get all the rest you need but do not just put your feet up. Be frugal.

You should keep calm yourself if you act you will be glad you did so. Be reliable.

The situation is favourable but you will also have to work hard.

You will at last have learnt a skill which you have found hard to acquire. You should keep your eyes and ears open. Be reasonable.

If you think that others will not spot an omission on your part you could well be wrong. You should not spend too much time doing puzzles or playing games just now.

Curb your expenditure somewhat. Be tolerant.

You are all too liable to get things wrong. Consequently you should always check your results.

You should not trust to chance or luck, instead do your best to depend on reason. Be sincere.

Pay a little more heed to other people's opinions. Do not think what you have to say on the subject is the only approach. You should ask yourself whether you have not come to the wrong conclusion. Be more alert.

You should be a little more indulgent when dealing with a friend who has adopted some quaint ideas. Something you are reluctant to do should not be put off any longer. Try to avoid all kinds of distractions. Be moderate.

Something you had scarcely expected will come to pass but it will be relatively easy to deal with.

You lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Make sure you do not anything that would obviously harm your health. You may have some good luck but cannot rely on it. Be resilient.

You do not have enough time and room to do all you would like to do. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Make sure you do not anything that would obviously harm your health. You may have some good luck but cannot rely on it. Be resilient.

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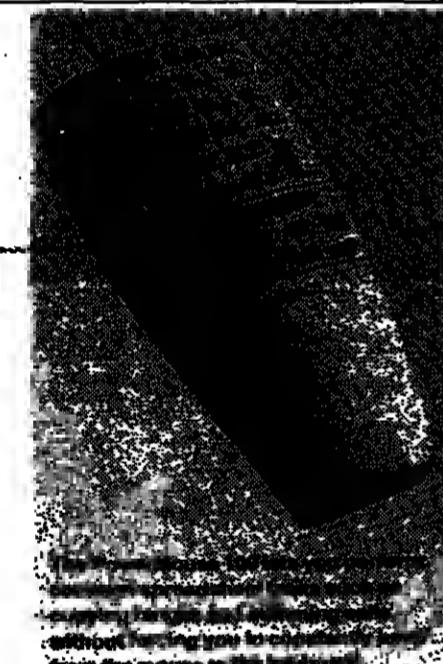
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tus, 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet packages. Predefined functions include programming statements, TSR hotkeys, and macros (such as copying, erasing, and range formatting). The mouse works with applications that do not have existing mouse support as well as those that support two-button mice, according to the company. It comes with drivers and software to configure it for use with software such as word processors, databases, and desktop publishing programs. Featuring BIOS-compatible Microsoft Mouse emulation, the PowerMouse uses opto-mechanical technology and interfaces with your RS-232 port (the package includes a 9- to 25-pin adapter) at a user-selectable speed of between 1,200 and 38,400 bits per second.

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Sampras upsets Mayotte

Lendl, Becker win

SYDNEY, Jan 10. (Reuters) Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker moved towards their first anticipated showdown of the 1990s with easy first round wins at the New South Wales Open tennis tournament today.

The world's top two players, seeded to meet in Sunday's final of the rain-hit event, dropped only nine games between them as they made a welcome return to the court after yesterday's complete wash-out.

Lendl disposed of his former doubles partner Andrew Sznajder of Canada 6-1 6-3 before, Becker took his place on centre court to muscle his way past Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 6-3 6-2.

Lendl served 11 aces but was not altogether happy in the breezy, overcast conditions.

"I didn't find the conditions very easy today but it was good to get out and hit a lot of balls," he said.

Fourth seed Tim Mayotte became the first major casualty of the tournament when he crashed out in straight sets to fellow American qualifier Pete Sampras.

Mayotte served a double fault to lose a first set tie-break and the 18-year-old Sampras took full advantage to win 7-6-2.

Sampras, who beat Mats Wilander at last year's US Open, afterwards described the result as "one of the biggest wins of my career."

"He knew I could play tennis. I don't know if he's psyching out when he plays me but it seems as though he doesn't play as well as he's capable of against me," said Sampras.

Results

Men's singles, first round (seeds in parentheses)

Yannick Noah, France (8) def. Ronald Agmon, Haiti, 6-4, 6-3; Ivan Lendl, Czechoslovakia (1), def. Andrew Sznajder, Canada, 6-1, 6-3; Boris Becker, West Germany (2), def. Alexander Volkov, Soviet Union, 6-3, 6-2; Mats Wilander, Sweden (3), def. Andre Gomes, Ecuador (6), 7-5, 6-4; Paul Annacone, US, def. Mark Krajzman, Australia, 6-1, 6-4; Pete Sampras, US, def. Tim Mayotte, US (4), 7-6(8-5), 6-2; Aaron Krickstein, US (3), def. Jan Gunnarsson, Sweden, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2; Jean Pfeil, France, def. Christian Piron, Yugoslavia, 6-3, 6-2; Nicolas Kroon, Sweden, def. Christo van Rensburg, South Africa, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; Omar Camporese, Italy, def. Jordi Arrese, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Goran Ivanisevic, Yugoslavia, def. Sergi Bruguera, Spain, 7-5, 6-2; Carl-Uwe Steeb, West Germany, 6-2, 6-4; Julie Haldane, US, 6-2, 6-2; Natalia Zvereva, Soviet Union (11); def. Akiko Kijimuta, Japan, 6-3, 6-1; Julie Haldane, France, def. Lori McNeill, US, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.

Women's singles, first round:

Nicole Probst, Australia, def. Catherine Tanvier, France, 6-0, 6-3; Jana Pospisilova, Czechoslovakia, def. Pam Shriver, US (5), 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 7-5; Elizabeth Keifer, Austria, def. Linda Lee, Australia, 6-3, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4; Rachel McQuillan, Australia, def. Robin Whire, US, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Brenda Schultz, US.

Robinson's admiration for Montana wearing thin

ANAHEIM, California, Jan 10, (AP) Even though John Robinson is a longtime admirer of Joe Montana, his admiration may be getting slightly frayed around the edges.

Explaining why his team won't be blitzing much Sunday in the playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers, the Rams coach said: "I don't think you want to mess around with Joe too much."

Then Robinson muttered, shaking his head and laughing softly, "I'm sick and tired of him."

Montana has caused Robinson more than his share of headaches, dating back to when Robinson was the coach at the University of Southern California in the 1970s and Montana was the quarterback at Notre Dame.

"I remember the game where he completed something like 18 in a row against us and brought them from two touchowns down to go ahead," Robinson said.

That was in 1977, and although Montana led the Irish to three touchdowns in the final quarter, he came up short for once. The Trojans won 27-20 on a late field goal.

The Rams take on the 49ers for the National Football Conference championship on Sunday. The victor will play the winner of the American Football conference championship game between Cleveland and Denver in the NFL's Super Bowl championship game.

In seven years as the Rams coach, Robinson has seen several of the dramatic comebacks that have made Montana and the 49ers the National Football League's dominant team of the '80s.

He watched from the sidelines a month ago at Anaheim stadium as Montana rallied the 49ers from a 17-point deficit in the final quarter to a 30-27 victory over the Rams.

Should the Browns fail to make the Super Bowl this year, 24-year-old Michael Dean Perry is likely to get another chance somewhere down the line.

For a handful of his aging teammates, though, this may be the last gasp.

"You'd like to see those guys get to the Super Bowl, guys who have been with the organization a long time," said Perry, the only Cleveland player to make the all-pro team. "And people say I'll be around for a lot more years. That's true, but you might not get this kind of opportunity very often."

Perry, a second-year player, still feels the hurt along with Ozzie Newsome, Cody Risien, Carl Hairston and Clay Matthews.

"If I was denied two trips to the Super Bowl by the same team and now we have to play them a third time, there'd be a little revenge on my mind, a little payback," Perry said.

Senna refused licence

PARIS, Jan 10. (Reuters) Former motor racing world champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil was today refused a licence to drive in the 1990 World Championship unless he withdraws allegations that last year's championship was manipulated to give Alain Prost the title.

The decision, made by the World Council of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), was announced by its president Jean-Marie Balestre at a news conference in Paris.

Balestre said Senna had refused, in FIA hearing on the matter in Paris last month, to withdraw allegations to the press that officials from the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa), including Balestre as a Frenchman, had favoured Prost to win the title.

Balestre said Senna had until February 15 to apply for his annual superlicence to drive in this season's Grand Prix.

Senna has caused Robinson more than his share of headaches, dating back to when Robinson was the coach at the University of Southern California in the 1970s and Montana was the quarterback at Notre Dame.

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"If I was denied two trips to the Super Bowl by the same team and now we have to play them a third time, there'd be a little revenge on my mind, a little payback," Perry said.

Senna asked to withdraw allegations

informed of the decision which was taken after he left the hearing on December 7.

He said the World Council had been shocked by the arrogant manner in which Senna conducted himself at the hearing.

Senna was fined \$10,000 and was given a six-month suspended

ban for dangerous driving following an incident with his McLaren team-mate Prost in last year's Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka.

Senna won the race but was later disqualified and the decision effectively gave the Frenchman the world title.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

Sri Lanka manager defends De Silva

PAM slams English tour of South Africa



ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) Sri Lanka has blamed Tasmajan Balwinder Rod Tucker for provoking a scuffle with star batsman Aravinda de Silva during a tour game earlier this week.

Team manager Nisan Senaratne told reporters today no disciplinary action would be taken against De Silva and he had no intention of taking the issue further.

The Australian Cricket Board yesterday said De Silva had apologised and admitted a breach of the player's code of behaviour after Tasmanian captain Dirk Wellham complained.

"The incident was sparked off by Tucker making some unpleasant remarks, threatening physical harm at Aravinda and obstructing Aravinda who was proceeding to make his first run," Senaratne said.

Tucker's remark that he would "blow his head off" was a reaction to Aravinda stepping out to strike a glorious six on Monday when De Silva twice ran into Tucker and on one occasion appeared to strike the medium-pacer with his bat.

The scuffle took place at Devonport Oval in Tasmania shortly after lunch on Monday when De Silva twice ran into Tucker and on one occasion appeared to strike the medium-pacer with his bat.

Tucker chased De Silva behind the wicket and engaged in some pushing and pulling with the diminutive Sri Lankan until

the umpires and Wellham intervened.

Aravinda expressed his concern and regret for the confrontation in the "true spirit of the game," Senaratne said.

"I'm convinced Aravinda's intentions were sincere and his actions not intentional but the result of provocation, and therefore I do not intend to proceed further on this matter," he added.

The confrontation took place on the final day of a three-day match which was drawn.

The ACB earlier said it had no jurisdiction over De Silva and any punishment should be decided by Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka starts a two-day match of 100 overs a side against the Australian Cricket Academy at Adelaide tomorrow.

In Johannesburg, a radical black anti-apartheid organisation yesterday condemned a planned cricket tour of South Africa and pledged to disrupt it, urging the English visitors to reconsider their plans or "face the wrath of Africa's sons and daughters," he said.

PAM Africanist Movement general secretary Benny Alexander refused to disclose to a news conference what methods would be used to end the tour.

The PAM would not seek permission from the courts to hold demonstrations, as required under South African law, Alexander said.

"We call on the English cricketers to reconsider their plans or to come and face the wrath of Africa's sons and daughters. Our opposition is not an intellectual exercise, it is our life and death, the whole existence of an entire people," he said.

Asked if the protests would involve violence, Alexander said, "we are going to halt this tour... we will go beyond mere protestations. Our objective is to bring an end to the tour and we are prepared to pay the consequences for realizing that objective."

Led by former England captain Mike Gatting, a team of top English players arrived later this month to contest two five-day and five limited-over matches against the South African national side.

Two black players have already withdrawn from the English team under pressure from anti-apartheid activists. Gatting has repeatedly dismissed efforts by South African activists to cancel the tour.

South Africa has officially been barred from international cricket since the 1970s, although rebel tours by several sides have taken place.

Ignoring anti-apartheid demonstrations and appeals from the British, Australian and Irish governments, a multi-national rugby team toured the country in August last year to celebrate the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.

Gower escapes death

LONDON, Jan 10. (Reuters) Former English cricket captain David Gower narrowly escaped death by leaping from his car just before it plunged into a frozen Swiss lake, the Daily Mirror said today.

Gower, 32, had driven the hired car on to the frozen surface of Lake St Moritz following other tyre tracks and thinking it was safe on his way home from dinner with friends, it said.

"I was looking for the bank and the way back on to the road when I thought, my God, that's water, not ice and snow in front of me ... the next thing I knew, there was the almighty sound of cracking ice," the paper quoted him as saying.

"Luckily I got the door open and was immediately in freezing water ... when I got back with some helpers, the car had sunk without trace."

Gower said he was so shaken he went to a church to say a prayer of thanks.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Le Mans race

PARIS, Jan 10, (Reuters): The chances of this year's Le Mans 24-hours sports car race going ahead receded today when the sport's governing body set a new condition on resuming talks on the event's future. Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa), told a news conference there would be no more negotiations with Le Mans organisers until they apologised publicly for what he called a campaign for defamation against Fisa.

Broncos tackle

DENVER, Jan 10, (AP): Prosecutors plan to seek formal conviction and sentencing of Denver Broncos tackle Gerald Perry for soliciting prostitution in Denver, because he violated a plea-bargain agreement by being arrested in Aurora.

Girardelli out

SCHLADMING, Austria, Jan 10, (AP): World Cup overall title holder Marc Girardelli is out of racing until February 10 because he suffered last month, his doctors said today.

Top golfer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, Jan 10, (AP): Tom Watson, who won 18 PGA Tour tournaments in the 1980s, was named Golfer of the Decade yesterday by the Professional Golfers Association of America.

Overall lead

PARIS, Jan 10, (Reuters): Twice winner Ari Vatanen of Finland shone again on the 11th stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally across 431 kms of winding desert tracks from Tabou in Niger to Niamey yesterday. Vatanen, Peugeot's top driver, scored his seventh stage win so far in the 18-stage rally, strengthening his overall lead over his three team-mates.

Italian Cup

ROME, Jan 10, (Reuters): Results in the third round of the Italian Soccer Cup today:

Group A	1
Ascoli	2 Inter
Napoli	2 Bologna
Milan	6 Messina

RESULTS of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Monday:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwhale
2. Jamila Akel & Nuela Khataf
3. Khala Houri & Nuela Kassim.

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played yesterday morning:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwhale
2. Margaret Maynard & Suzanne Cattermole
3. Shariq Iqbal: Jamila Akel & Joan Hashim and Khala Houri & Nuela Kassim.

Results of Sheraton Bridge game played on Tuesday:

1. N/S
2. Farah
3. Mrs Dona Malmy & Dr Adel Shah & Merchant
4. E/W
5. Salman & Latifa
6. M Sabri & Oskay
7. Simon & Mukherjee

LIVERPOOL, England, Jan 10, (AP): Ian Rush scored three goals and John Barnes added two as defending champion Liverpool crushed tiny Swansea 8-0 last night in a replay of their third-round English Football Association Cup game.

Third-Division Swansea had held the Reds to a scoreless tie in their FA Cup soccer match Saturday in Wales, forcing the replay at Anfield.

Swansea goalie Lee Bracey held Liverpool scoreless for the first 21 minutes of yesterday's contest, extending his goalless streak against the Reds to 111 minutes. But then Liverpool exploded.

Barnes scored off a Steve Staunton pass to start the rout and Ronnie Whelan added the second goal in the 40th minute before Barnes made it 3-0 two minutes before intermission.

Liverpool, who scored nine goals against Crystal Palace in a Division One League game earlier this season, kept up the scoring in the second half. Rush scored the fourth in the 52nd minute and Peter Beardsley made it 5-0 seconds later.

Rush scored in the 77th and 83rd minutes and Steve Nicol



Rush (left) got three while Barnes scored two.



barnes rallied for a 3-1 victory at non-League team Darlington and First-Division rival Millwall and Manchester City played to a

1-1 overtime tie. Darlington, playing in front of its biggest home crowd in three years, dominated the first half and held a 1-0 lead on a goal in the 29th minute by Les McLean.

But Cambridge got goals by John Taylor and Lee Philpott in a two-minute span early in the second half and Adrian Dublin added a beater in the final minutes to eliminate the non-League team.

At Millwall, Jimmy Carter gave the hosts the lead in the 16th minute but Colin Hendry tied the score with 10 minutes remaining. The teams failed to score in overtime and will play again Monday at Millwall.

■ Striker Lee Chapman signed for English Second Division soccer leaders Leeds United yesterday in a £400,000 (\$600,000) transfer from First Division Nottingham Forest.

Chapman, 30, who signed a three and a half year contract, rejoins Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson, under whom he served at Sheffield Wednesday.

The striker's six previous clubs include League champions Arsenal.

The deal brings to more than

£3.5 million (\$5.8 million) Wilkinson's spending in the last 16 months.

Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup third-round replays

Darlington 1 Cambridge United 3

(Cambridge United away to Millwall or

Manchester City)

Liverpool 8 Swansea 0

(Liverpool away to Exeter or Norwich)

Millwall 1 Manchester City 1

Scottish Premier Division

Motherwell 0 Hibernian 2

English Division Four

Burnley 3 Scarborough 0

Scottish Division One

Albion 0 Hamilton 0

Scottish Division Two

Stenhousemuir 3 Berwick 3

■ Brazilian striker Careca

injured his foot in training with Italian League leaders Napoli yesterday and will be out of action for a month, the club said.

Careca is a key figure in Brazil's expected 1990 World Cup side.

Splintered a small bone in his right foot when he collided with club mate and compatriot Alemano.

His injury is bad news for Napoli, whose two-point lead in the First Division has looked shaky following their first

League defeat of the season on December 30 and an unimpressive 1-0 win against lowly Ascoli last Sunday.

Kuwait triumphs

ISLAMABAD, Jan 10, (Kuma): Kuwait scored its first victory in the KESC International Boxing Championships at KGA Gymnasium in Karachi last night through its boxer Nasir Ali Qaznadi.

According to results of second day's bouts in the first Karachi Electric Supply Corporation International Boxing Championships available today, Qaznadi beat Pakistan Navy's pupil Intizar Ali.

One of the most interesting bouts was between Pakistan's Olympic bronze medallist Hussain Shah and Indonesia's Bahari Pino in the middle weight category in which the latter gave tough time before going down to his Pakistani opponent.



Mustafa Iqbal



Arshad Mehmood

Lucky Star and TCC score easy victories

out on the third delivery of the 25th over. He was supported by Rudy and skipper Francis who scored 31 and 34 not out respectively. For PCCC, Sadik took 2 wickets and Shakoor one.

After winning the toss, New Star captain Tariq opted to bat but the whole team was out for only 94 runs. Zahid was the top scorer with 27 while Nafis got 21.

For Lucky Stars, Mustafa Iqbal was the most successful bowler with six for 15 while Tahir got two for 26 while Mir Ifukhar and Imtiaz got one wicket each.

Lucky Stars opened their innings through Arshad Mehmood and Atiq but the latter was out for only seven. Tahir Mehmood and Arshad Mehmood then started taking the New Star bowlers to task. Tahir was out for 25 but Arshad went on to score 49 as he took his team to victory. Anwar Khan chipped in with 20 as his team went past the victory target in the 12th over.

■ The newly formed Trishul Cricket Club (TCC) playing their first match, defeated Pakistan Central Cricket Club (PCCC) by 31 runs in a match at the Farwaniya grounds earlier this week.

Batting first, TCC scored 190 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted 25 overs. The highlight of their innings was a classic 94 by the opening batsman Rony with the help of 3 mighty sixes and 10 boundaries. He was b/w

Rony hit 94.

Ahmadi retain golf trophy

AHMADI Golf Club won the second leg of the annual inter-club competition which it hosted last Friday in Ahmadi, by beating the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club by 13 matches to 8 with 3 drawn. Although, H&E had won the first leg of this event held in October by 9 matches to 7, Ahmadi finished overall winners on aggregate of 20 matches to 17 and retained the trophy for another year.

In a Scotch foursome competition held at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club in the new year Samir Baluja and Suhail Gidwani played superb golf to secure first place on a countback from HS Nam and SD So when both teams scored 65. The duo of KK Lee and SW Choi carded 66 to take third place. Other scores were: G. Thuene and D. Brero —

Edberg wins

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10, (AP): Masters champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden breezed to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Australian Darren Cahill today in the first match of the Rio Challenge Exhibition Tennis Tournament at Memorial Drive in Adelaide.

Frenchman Henri Leconte, Americans John McEnroe and Jim Courier and in-form Austrian Thomas Muster also are in the line-up for the exhibition.

McEnroe also scored a quick-fire win in his tournament opener, downing Leconte 6-0, 6-2.

He said Qadir's right hand was bruised and he doubted the spinner would be fit to play.

Skipper Imran Khan, however, said Qadir would probably miss the Test even if he recovered as he was off form.

"There is a good chance that Qadir could be left out of the Test side on his form," he said.

Pakistan's four-day match against Queensland ended in a draw yesterday.

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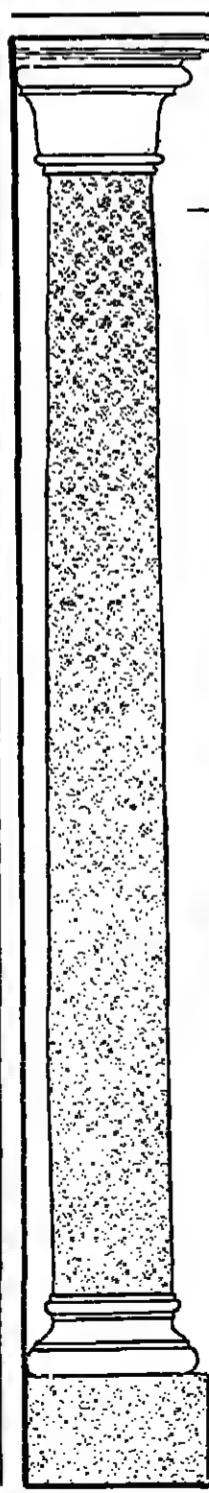
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Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Shuwaikh
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait

Telex:
22332 KT

Telex:
22332 KT

Telex:
22332 KT

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